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CAT-TIPS

Part-III

..... From DPCC's CAT Experts

Remember CAT is nothing but a battle of the ATTITUDES.

As already pointed out in our previous communicate (in last two months' issues); there are many facets that go into making the right attitude for being the manager and the most important of them all is :-



TIME MANAGEMENT

Which is required to tackle approx 190 questions in 120 minutes in CAT - **HOW ???**

1. You don't have to attempt all the questions. Attempt only the correctly identified ones. **HOW ???**
2. A) By deciding the correct chronology (sequence) of the sections to be attempted. (Will be difficult if the questions are jumbled). Remember, weakest part should never be the first and the strongest part should never be the last.
B) By pre-deciding time that you have to devote to each section.
3. C) By increasing your SPEED specially in the sections of your strength. **HOW ???**
A) By employing short cuts. (Special formula helpful in Maths, DI & DS) **HOW ???**
B) By leaving out questions - **which qns to leave ???**
4. This has to be predecided by repeated Mock Tests with the help of your counselor. **HOW ???**
5. By making your subject wise score data base and identifying your Knowledge Intensive areas which can be converted into Speed Intensive areas. **HOW ???** By opting for the scientific format of :-

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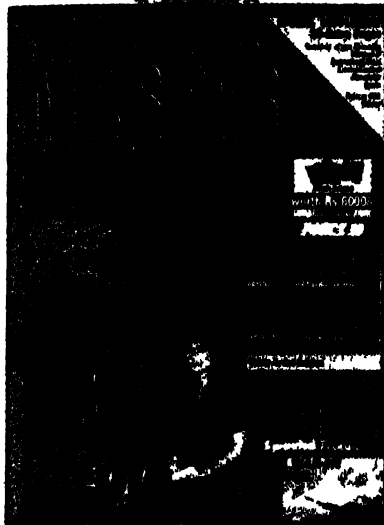
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Article
Genesis of Oil Sector Reforms

Debate
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Essay
Art and Religion

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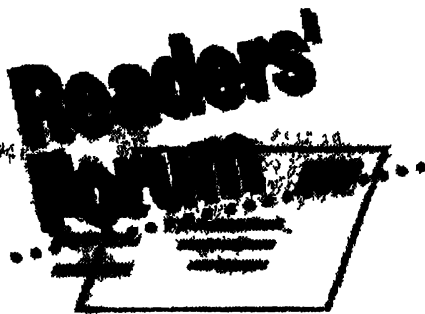
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Don't be Time-beggar

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The best two letters of the month appearing in the box have been awarded a prize of 100.00 each. Readers are invited to send us their views on topics covered in this issue. You can also e-mail your response to letters@competitionmaster.com. The decision of the Editor will be final.

COALITION POLITICS

The cover feature on coalition politics shows politicians as power hungry and un-principled. But part of the fault is also of the Indian people; they are so divided that they do not give absolute power to any single party, which results in coalition governments and all the evils associated with them.

*Anush Kumar
Sheikhpura, Bihar*

The cover illustration was very apt. It showed how politicians are curled up as snakes. Not only their bite, but also the whip of their tail is very bad for the country.

*Sumit S Halapeti
Hubli, Karnataka*

There are several weaknesses of the Indian political system, and coalition politics brings these out very well. But people are responsible for this too, since they vote for small regional parties and issues, without keeping the national interest in mind.

*Thirunaharu Vidyadhar
Kareemnagar, Andhra Pradesh*

PAKISTAN CLOAK AND DAGGER GAME

All the efforts towards peace made by the Indian Prime Minister have proved to be a disaster. Pakistan's actions smack of hypocrisy. However, Indian leaders must realise that

this is not the time to quarrel among each other. The Opposition has to behave more responsibly and must not criticise the caretaker government just for the sake of criticism.

*Shilpi Roy
Allahabad, UP*

Pakistan wants to snatch Kashmir by hook or by crook. Today, the country is fighting a full fledged war for this purpose. Pakistani leaders have betrayed trust and as a result hundreds of our soldiers have been killed. No religion teaches killing. How can they be engaged in a war they describe as holy?

*Silman Summa
Ludhiana, Punjab*

IS MONEY EVERYTHING IN LIFE?

Money is an important necessity for living, but it cannot bring mental peace and satisfaction. Man is never satisfied the more he has, the more he wants. People who run after money lose the charm of living. They have to realise that happiness lies within their selves, not in the blind pursuit of money.

*Rupesh Kumar
Darjeeling*

EDUCATION SANS CREATIVITY

The value of education is lost. The aim of education should be to encourage curiosity

KARGIL AND POLITICS

Your cover story on politics is related no doubt to the crisis that is faced by the country in Kargil. Pakistan has only made use of the instability within the country. Jayalalitha and politicians of her like must surely share some of the blame for letting the enemy take advantage of us in this manner.

*Swati Shari
Varanasi, U*

EDUCATION AND CREATIVITY

Education is useless if it does not encourage creativity in a person. After all, the objective of learning is not to look for a job. We should all work towards the good of the country. However, our education system is merely producing an army of clerks.

*Siddhartha Goyal
Karnal, Haryana*

but it neither ignites interest nor is it job oriented. Even after spending the most important years of their life at school and colleges, we have no future to look forward to. Education should encourage creativity and arouse interest in a person.

*Pinky Dhagia
Ahmedabad, Gujarat*

MID-TERM HICCUPS

The alarming rate at which elections are being held has

made people realise the importance of having a two-party system in our country. It exists in UK and USA. Political stability in these countries resulted in mass development. But in India, huge amounts are wasted in elections which are held almost every year. Our leaders should consider the introduction of a two-party system to get over the shortcomings in our political process.

*Sweta S
Patna, E*

REQUEST TO READERS

Maybe you have appeared in some competitive examination recently. We shall be grateful if you could send us the question papers. All those sending original question papers will be suitably compensated and the original papers will be returned.

—Editor

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From the Desk of the

Editor



Dear Masters

With this issue The Competition Master enters 41st year of publication. That, in last 40 years, we managed to guide lakhs of students every year make a successful career for themselves, has been our biggest achievement. The scores of letters of praise and thanks received every month have been our reward. We are proud of the fact that all these years we were able to maintain tough standards and quality.

I will like to take this opportunity to highlight the achievement of one of the oldest editorial contributors to CM, Mr I.M. Soni. A noted freelance writer, and former Chairman of the Department of Mass Communication, Punjab University, he has been nominated to "Eminent Personalities of India" volume. Being brought out by International Biographical Research Foundation, Nagpur, the volume will cover those who have done "excellent work, scaled heights and made a mark in original thinking....".

Our achievements are, however, very small when compared to those of our valient soldiers who have been making the supreme sacrifice to ensure that we all can live in peace. For last month or so there has been a war going on in Kargil to recapture the Indian areas occupied by Pakistani intruders. It becomes the duty of all patriotic Indians to come forward and help the families of those who have laid down their lives for the motherland. On our part, we have already contributed Rs 1,15,000 to the Army welfare fund and appeal to all our readers to contribute whatever they can. The address and other details are given below.

We wish our brave soldiers a grand success!

With best wishes,

[Signature]

Our Valiant Jawans

are laying down their lives for us.

Let's do our bit for them.

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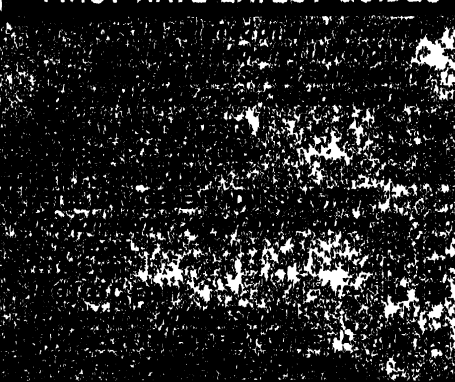
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Art and Religion

"The gods are never so pleased on being worshipped with scents and garlands as they are delighted with the performance of drama. The man who properly attends the performance of music and drama will, after his death, attain the happy and meritorious heavenly abode in the company of sages"

Bharata in Natya Shastra

IF religion is belief in the existence of God, art is the creation or expression of something beautiful in a visual form. Notwithstanding the philosophy of 'Art for Art's sake', passionately pursued by some, art and religion continue to work hand in glove with each other, in the varied forms of art and literature, dance and drama, music and melody, painting and sculpture. The immortal Epics like *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*, Homer's *Illiad*, Dante's *Divine Comedy*, Milton's *Paradise Lost* and *Regained*, Aurobindo's *Savitri*, to name a few only, are a telling testimony to man's faith in religion and its excellent expression in vibrant verse. The cave paintings, frescoes, murals and carvings of pre-historic times confirm earliest man's innate faith in primitive gods and spirits and their profound portrayal in colours and stones.

In India religion and art are inextricably associated and share a deep relationship. It would not be far-fetched to say that religion is art and art is religion. This unique relationship between religion and art is not only physical but profoundly spiritual as well. Our Ajanta and Ellora caves, Jain temples and Buddhist Monasteries, Hindu temples of South India *et al*, are not only the living embodiments of religion in creative colours, concise concepts and concrete creations, but also the finest examples of human intuition and imagination. These places of frequent visits and veneration are a beautiful—rather a blissful blending of art and religion emitting both an undying faith of the faithfuls and the immortal imprint of artistic minds.

The monuments like the great Mosques, Churches and Cathedrals of the world, stand out against the ravages of time, as the supreme specimens of pristine passions and sublimation of human senses. At the back of these perfections of human vision and visual portrayal of gods and goddesses lie the natural sway of artistic impulses with a deep religious bent of mind. Nothing could excel the ecstatic feelings that one undergoes in religious hymns expressed in pure poetry, devotional songs and religious music.

According to Indian mythology, ... originate from Him and hence carry His qualities of '*rasa* and *ananda*'. In India, art nurtures religion and religion inspires art. The arts supplement the holy scriptures in the propagation of religion. Even Buddhism, which initially negated art, later acknowledged its charm. Kalidasa equate dramatic performance with *yagna*—penance. The dialogue hymns found in the Rig Veda were actually performed at the *yagna* ceremonies. In the "World Festival of Sacred Music", held recently in the national capital, the performances represented music from various regions like the earth worshipping sounds of Australian Aborigines, the quirks of Islam, flutes of the Sufis, the chants and *mantra* recitations of Asian Buddhists, *Bhakti* music of India, Christian Gregorian chants, holy drums of Africa and the gospel music of African Americans.

If religion is the inspiration of art in its vibrant and voluptuous forms, art is an exuberant expression of religion, both in intensity of feeling and faith. Since time immemorial, religion and art have remained an integral part of human psyche and perceptions. The existence of the one without the other, is not only incomplete but also incoherent. However, looking at the world around and the place of religion and art in the ever-changing scenario and susceptibilities, there is no denying that new trends and tendencies in Fine

and Reforming Arts have appeared on the creative canvas. New idioms and expressions, ostensibly divorced from religion and rituals, have changed the concepts of artists, both in modern and post-modern periods. Art movements like Surrealism, Cubism, Impressionism, etc. in the world of Art and Architecture; Beatle, Jazz and Pop Music in place of soft and soothing tunes of the past, new experiments and experiences that artists prefer to give a definite shape, may mean a near hiatus between Art and Religion.

When Karl Marx's indictment of religion as the opium of the people became a fad or fashion, artists the world over began to distance themselves from deification of myths and mysteries in their respective arts. But in India, despite the strong currents of progressive movement sweeping across the length and breadth of the country, depiction of epic stories, fables and other religious edicts have remained favourite subjects of expression of not only painters but also of poets, singers, dancers and musicians. In India, the spiritual, physical and cultural association of religion and art has always marked the highest form of civilisation. Because of its association with art, religion is ever joyful and Goddess Saraswati continues to mould and influence the imagination, and creative sensibilities of many an artist in almost all genres of artistic expression.

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Sermons and Sinners

In our last month's editorial, we had commented: The Nehru legacy has to be consigned to the dustbin of history if India has to gain national self-respect.

The ghost of Nehru continues to haunt this hapless country. This is evident from the glib talk of Sonia Gandhi and her cohorts of the Congress Party. They singled out the *sauve* Prime Minister and poured ridicule on him for his attempts to improve relationships with Pakistan.

The woolly Party arranged an utterly disgraceful roadside show of an overturned bus which carried the words: Delhi-Lahore-Kargil: Atal-George Pvt Ltd Co. Prior to Sonia, Sitaram Kesari used to win wooden spoons for nonsensical actions! The fountain-head of political wisdom had also used intemperate language describing BJP government's



effort showing: level of inexperience, naivete and immaturity of the political executive of the day. No prizes for guessing who was the target. Only the dyed-in-black (read white) Congressmen and women could revel in their leaders' (?) downright farcical statements.

The Prime Minister's efforts in establishing friendship had a far-reaching effect on India getting articulated support at International fora. The G-8 conference statement was culmination of it. The taped conversations, the text of which has been released, prove that the Pak army was

involved and those who were supposed to be in the know of "secret" goings-on, were indeed ignorant. Thus, there are reports that the Prime Minister of the "Criminal State" may soon wear the sackcloth. No one, in India or abroad, has said such a thing about Atal Behari Vajpayee.

The "World Cup" in highest level of political incompetence should be awarded to the Bengali Babu, spokesman of the Congress Party, for his: The Centre should take up the Kargil issue at a suitable international forum. This sage of "sinners" does not

know two things. One, this is what Pakistan has been striving hard for years. Two, is his Party still not surfeited with the consequences of Nehru taking the Kashmir issue to the UNO when the Indian army sought only forty-eight hours to remove all traces of Pak army and tribal invaders from the valley of our woes?

True, lapses like undetection of intruders from Pak army did occur. But may we ask Sonia and her sychophants: What was Congress doing when the Chinese built the Aksai Chin road and latter "raped" Tibet?

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The War in Kargil

The attention of the nation abruptly switched from the Cricket World Cup to the conflict in Kargil as bodies of soldiers started arriving in all corners of the country. A shocked nation tried to come to terms with a war with its neighbour. The Defence Minister declared the intruders would be thrown out in 48 hours, but the army prepared for the long haul. After more than a month, there seems little hope that the war will end soon, especially since the intruders have declared that they will not respect any agreement or deal.

In this feature, we trace the history of the conflict and the present position, including the efforts at the international level. There is little doubt that India has been caught in a bind, largely due to the myopia of our own politicians.

IN retrospect, one can say that the war in Kargil was waiting to happen. For the whole of 1998 and half of 1999, newspapers have not tired themselves of reporting about the non-issues that have been raised by politicians of various shades. Governments have been brought down for no other reason than personal greed. Political instability fuelled the economic slowdown and introduced despondency among the people. Any enemy having evil designs on the country could scarcely let go of the opportunity that was presented by our leaders. Pakistan succeeded in creating a sense of complacency, not only in the Indian leadership but the armed forces as well, to send armed intruders across the Line of Control (LoC) and caught the nation unawares.

For more than a month, the country has been engaged in intense military action. Indian casualties are mounting by the day. Though gains in territory are reported everyday, it is evident that the country cannot get rid of all the infiltrators for quite a long time. Hopes that

international pressure might make Pakistan withdraw have been shattered as the infiltrators, or mujahideen as they like to be called, think that they are conducting a religious war and are not willing to accept any international agreement made by the Prime Minister of their own country. There is little that the world can do but wait and hope that the conflict does not escalate into a full-fledged war.

A lingering dispute

TO understand the Kashmir issue, it is necessary to see why the issue arose in the first place. The Kashmir problem is a result of the haste with which the Partition of India was conducted by the British and accepted by the leaders of both the countries. The root of the problem dates back to 1947, when rulers of princely States were given the option of joining either country. The Maharaja of Kashmir, Hari Singh, believed that by delaying a decision he could maintain the independence of Kashmir. On October 20, 1947, Pashtun tribesmen invaded Kashmir. The Indian government decided to send its forces after the Instrument of Accession to the Indian Union was signed on October 26, 1947. That should have been the deciding factor about Kashmir's future, but a series of blunders resulted in Pakistan laying claim on it, regarding it as a natural extension of its country. Among the blunders is Nehru's raising the issue in the UN General Assembly. A 50-year-old Security Council resolution now accords Kashmiris the right to choose between India and Pakistan by referendum. The UN also defined a cease-fire line.

Today, instead of integrating the State within India, J&K retains a special status defined by Article 370 of the Constitution. It has its own constitution, adopted in

1956, that affirms its integrity within the Republic of India.

The Shimla agreement, signed on July 2, 1972, separated the one-third of Kashmir occupied by Pakistan from the two-thirds occupied by India. The basis of this was the position of troops on the date of cease fire between the two countries as on December 17, 1971. On December 11, 1972 a set of 25 maps, prepared under UN supervision, were exchanged by both sides and the Line of Control (LoC) was defined and ratified. Both sides agreed to respect it and not encourage any acts detrimental to peaceful and harmonious relations. The Kargil conflict is thus a flagrant violation of the Shimla agreement, and that is the reason that the international community has not accepted Pakistan's version of events.

Indian gullibility

THE Indian press and public have been surprised by the Pakistani decision to send infiltrators across the LoC. A number of articles have been written that show Pakistan's economy in dire trouble, with the conclusion that the nation can ill-afford a full-fledged war. Vajpayee's bus diplomacy heightened the sense of complacency and India believed that peace could finally be achieved. Everyone overlooked the historical grudge that Pakistanis nurse against India and seek revenge. A wrecked economy is the last thing that will stop Pakistanis from avenging their sense of humiliation. Whether their complaint is real or imagined is besides the point.

Pakistan was founded on the "two-nation theory", which says that Hindus and Muslims should have separate homelands. This idea justifies Pakistan's claim on Kashmir, India's only State with a Muslim majority. Both countries nurse grudges against each other. Indians cannot

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forgive Pakistan for partition of their country and still think of India as a greater country that includes Pakistan and Bangladesh. Pakistanis see this as a means to take over their country. The 1971 war in which Bangladesh achieved independence, was proof of India's bad intentions. Pakistan has still not forgiven India for the 1971 division. Feelings of animosity are nurtured by people in both countries who have memories of atrocities committed during the Partition of India.

It is these feelings that has led to a history of ISI meddling in India. Punjab was in the grip of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism for many years. It has engineered bomb blasts and tried to create disturbances in the country. Even today, Pakistan devotes a major share of its resources to defence, mainly against the threat from India. Pakistan has been on a war-footing all its life, and has been ruled by military governments for nearly half of its 52 years. It has prepared for attack on India for many years. For its part, India has been unable to decide whether to deal with Pakistan as a friend or foe.

Pakistan has been involved in the war in Afghanistan, which the USA fought by proxy. It encouraged fundamentalists in that country, but now that they are returning from Pakistan-backed *jihads* in Afghanistan, their attention turned to Kashmir. They are heavily armed and have modern weapons, including US Stinger missiles. Disgruntled Kashmiris too have a powerful patron in Pakistan; the ISI and the army backs such elements willing to do anything for a war which they see as dictated by *Allah*. In this context, the nuclear tests conducted by India have been a gift to Nawaz Sharif. It was a means to harness the militant sentiments, but worse, the tests made it overcome the strategic inferiority it had in conventional warfare. Making use of Indian gullibility, Sharif attempted what no Pakistani ruler had done since 1971. As the infiltration became known, Defence Minister George Fernandes tried to absolve Sharif of involvement, overlooking the fact such a massive breach of LoC could not have been attempted by the Army without political

support.

Long-drawn battle

THE war in Kargil seems to be a long-drawn one. The army has recaptured some heights but many more wait to be taken. As winter approaches, its efforts will no doubt be slowed down. It has suffered huge losses in terms of men. Two planes and a helicopter have also been lost.

The news on the diplomatic front have not been very encouraging—though Sharif has been told by US President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair to withdraw forces, he may find himself in a bind. Popular and religious sentiment in Pakistan may not allow him to retreat forces and he can ill-afford to risk a civil war. Even though there is intense international pressure on Pakistan to withdraw the forces, the question remains whether he can do so and whether those fighting India will listen to Sharif. After all, it is easy to start a religious war but difficult to stop it, since the soldiers believe they follow the commands only of *Allah*. It remains to be seen how Sharif handles the volatile situation in his country.

As things stand today, Pakistan has succeeded in internationalising the Kashmir issue. India has desperately tried to control the situation by writing to the

G-8 for support and asking the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to stop release of funds to Pakistan. Even the Indian actions help in getting the issue international attention. India can feel happy at the international opinion, but there is no guarantee that the US can force Sharif to rein in the *mujahideen*.

Pakistan's designs are becoming obvious with more revelations. It has sent armed mercenaries to the State of J&K with the idea of creating disturbances within the State, while the defence forces are engaged at the LoC. It hopes to alter the LoC to its advantage through the conflict. Already, its Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz has linked Indian withdrawal from Siachen to its own retreat from Kargil, even though the USA has said that no such agreement was made. Massacres of unarmed people have started once again after a relative period of calm. The idea is to keep the Indian army occupied while it tries to take over the entire Kashmir.

India may not let Pakistani designs succeed through sheer military muscle. The world powers may intervene as well, if the conflict escalates, since no nation wants to see a nuclear holocaust. It is evident, however, that things are not simple since Sharif has no way by which to withdraw without losing face. Pakistan has unleashed a monster which may be very difficult to control indeed.

A Religious War?

Pakistan claims that it has not sent the intruders across the LoC but there is evidence that it has always supported fundamentalist militant groups. There is no shortage of people in Pakistan who want to fight holy wars, or *jehads*. During the Russian occupation of Afghanistan, the US supported the *mujahideen*, which is the reason that it grew into a powerful force. Today, the US itself is threatened by Islamic militants and hence the country is wary of Pakistani designs. However, many Pakistan-based outfits have made wresting of Kashmir from India as their primary aim. Among these are:

Jamaat-e-Islami: This is a religious party which has three wings, a) Islami Jamaat-e-Tulba, which enrolls members from colleges in Pakistan, b) Jamaat-Tulba-e-Arabia, who draws members from religious schools known as *madrassas*, and c) Hizbul Mujahideen, which is the militant part of the Jamaat-e-Islami.

Markaz-ud-Deawa-Wal-Irshad: This prepares *mujahideen* for *jihad* around the world. Its headquarters are a 170-acre campus Muridke, near Lahore, and was started by Osama bin Laden. It has a militant outfit, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, which is backed by ISI and operates from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Harkat-ul-Ansar: Consists of foreign mercenaries and Kashmiris. It is also known as Harkat-ul-Mujahideen and Harkat-ul-Jehad.

In addition, there are a number of *madrassas* or training schools all across Pakistan which are breeding grounds of religiously-charged young men. This has given the Pakistani army strategic depth, which makes infiltration easy.

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Genesis of Oil Sector Reforms

Oil sector has always been very important to Indian Economy. The oil crisis of early seventies had severely affected the Indian economic development and resulted in triggering inflationary trends in the country. Once again in 1990 and 1991, the Gulf war resulted in severe shortage of oil all over the world and India was one of the most affected countries. Since we produce less than 40 per cent of our total crude oil requirements, and are heavily dependent on its imports, every fluctuation in crude oil prices has a direct bearing on Indian economy. The coming years would be of utmost importance as the government may decide to de-regulate this sector too, in pursuance of the policy of reforms and liberalisation

Ensuing Reforms

ONE of the most important contributing factors to initiation of the process of structural reforms and liberalisation in early nineties was the oil crisis. The severe crisis not only put unduly heavy burden on foreign exchange reserves but also adversely affected the balance of trade of the country. The jolt was so severe that for the first time after independence, there was a serious talk of imposing financial emergency, as the foreign exchange reserves had dipped to all time low and were sufficient only to meet the import bill for just two to three weeks.

Today, when first generation of reforms is complete in almost all the sectors, oil sector still remains untouched. The government has appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Nitish Sengupta to suggest the ways to restructure the oil sector. The committee recently submitted its report. The government has indicated that oil sector would be deregulated by the year 2002 AD. This means that by that time, the public sector oil companies may have to compete with private oil companies and the policy of administered prices may go. The Sengupta Committee was also required to

suggest the ways to ensure that the existing small and independent players did not get wiped out completely.

It is recommended by the Sengupta Committee that one refinery out of the existing ones be transferred to the global oil giant Shell-Aramco. The Sengupta Committee has also recommended that seven pipelines of the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) be transferred to an independent company like Petronet India Ltd. The obvious aim is to cut big public sector companies to size, with a view to provide a level play-field to the new entrants. The logic given by the Committee is that if the complete control of existing oil PSUs was not reduced, the new private companies would not enter the fray, as they would not be able to compete with deeply entrenched government-owned oil companies. It is further argued that the synergy of a joint venture between Shell-Aramco and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) can result in restructuring the downstream oil sector. Similarly, the argument put forth to support the proposed handing over of seven pipelines of the IOC to Petronet India Ltd is to suggest that the market control of the IOC is to be reduced from its existing 55 per cent, so that privatisation of this sector in real earnest takes place.

On the similar lines, synergy of two more companies is suggested. It has been recommended that Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and IBP, an exclusively a marketing company having no refinery of its own, should go in for a strategic alliance and BPCL should be given the government's equity holding in Cochin and Chennai refineries. Akin to this, a strategic alliance has been proposed for BPCL and HPCL. These suggestions of the Committee are viewed with suspicion by many, branding them as proposals to virtually wind up the public sector oil companies having refining facilities, as any alliance with any global giants would certainly

result in Indian companies losing their identity.

Far-reaching Implications

BUT, if a fair assessment of the scenario is done, the recommendations of the Sengupta Committee may not appear to be unreasonable. Existence of a giant oil company like IOC, controlling more than 50 per cent of the Indian market, may act as a deterrent to any new entrant and, to that extent, shedding of some of its facilities and a proposed strategic alliance with a global giant may not be far fetched. Crude oil has always been of utmost importance to India. During the beginning of April, 1999, when the global crude oil prices went down to the rock bottom level of \$ 11 per barrel, against \$ 19 per barrel about a couple of years ago, it was expected that it may result in a boon to India if the prices continued to fall. But thanks to a dubious decision by the oil majors to cut down their production by about 10 per cent, by the beginning of May, the prices jumped up to \$ 19.05 a barrel, for the first time since December 1997. As a result, it is expected that the oil pool surplus of over Rs 15,000 crore, as it stood at the end of 1998-99, may soon get wiped out and foreign exchange reserves, which has recently crossed \$ 30 million, may once again be under severe strain, the option of increasing the administered prices of the petroleum products notwithstanding.

As per information available, during the month of April 1999, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) slashed their output by 1.34 million barrels per day (bpd) to 26.38 million bpd, from 27.72 million bpd during March 1999. The decision to lower the supplies was complied with by all 10 members of OPEC, including four giants like Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Iran and UAE. Considering the swiftness of the action to cut output, it appears highly unlikely that the members

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- World-famous author. I published 3 computer books in USA including best selling "MS-DOS Masters."
- Earned 50 dollars per HOUR in USA as computer expert and writer. At the peak of success, I left USA to do something in our own country. Now, I do research at the Mind Power Research Institute.
- Learned French, Sanskrit, Karate, Breaking wooden board by hand, many Meditations, etc.
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of OPEC would easily budge from their decision to reduce production to keep the prices buoyant.

This is going to have serious ramifications on India. India imports over 39 million tonnes of crude oil from middle-east annually, with a mind boggling bill of over Rs 20,000 crore in foreign exchange. So far as the total imports of the petroleum products are concerned, the total import demand of these products during 1998-99 was 19.31 million tonnes, which included 11.34 million tonnes of diesel. The total crude imports were as high as 39.37 million tonnes, as against the total indigenous production of 31.61 million tonnes during the previous financial year.

In other words, it implies that the total import bill of the crude and petroleum products is over 25 per cent of total imports. But with about 80 per cent increase in global prices of crude, the oil bill is likely to mount steeply. Coupled with this, is the serious concern about stagnant domestic production of crude, which is hovering around 30 to 32 million tonnes during the past 15 years, while the annual demand is rising at the rate of 5 to 7 per cent.

It is under this background that the country has to prepare itself for facing the challenges that may have to be encountered once the reforms are initiated in the oil sector after deregulating it in 2002 AD, as per the proposal. Several consequences would automatically follow. Firstly, the policy of administered prices would go and the domestic prices of petroleum products would be subject to the fluctuations in the international market. Secondly, the concept of oil pool, used as a domestic price stabilising measure, would go. Thirdly, the government may impose additional custom duties to ensure that its coffers do get some additional resources. This coupled with the profit motive of the private companies would mean relatively higher price of petroleum products and no protection from unusually high prices in the global market, due to production cut, war or sanctions.

Although things have changed for better nowadays, yet due care has to be taken to ensure that the proposed globalisation of the oil sector does not re-

sult in a 1971-like syndrome when, during Indo-Pak war, some global oil companies operating in India refused to make their oil stocks available for Indian armed forces, resulting in their unceremonious exit from India.

Stepping-up Exploration

As stated earlier also, in the field of exploration, no major discoveries of oil have been made during the past about two decades. A country like China, which was largely dependent on imports, with a timely and bold exploration policy over the past about 15 years, has become an exporter of oil. But in India, out of 26 sedimentary basins, only six have been explored as yet and those offered to the private parties for exploration recently were not attractive enough. Since our sufficiency ratio in oil has been falling, our demand for oil imports is likely to rise gradually, during at least next one decade, neutralising the gains on the current account which may accrue due to increased export effort during these years.

In the field of exploration, India, therefore, has to go all out in the second wave of reforms. The first class of reforms in this field did not yield any tangible results. Recently, the government has prepared a blueprint of a perspective plan to increase the crude output during the next two decades. A more progressive fiscal regime in India's New Exploration Licencing Policy (NELP) and a greater thrust in exploration of deep water basins are some of the key proposals outlined in a policy draft titled as "The India Hydrocarbon Vision 2020".

The formation of this policy draft was proposed on the heels of the government announcement in 1997 to lift State controls from the oil sector to make it market-oriented by April 2002. The draft policy, made public in April 1999, recommends that the domestic refining would be raised to 391 million tonnes per annum in the year 2020-21 to meet the projected product demand of 350 million tonnes that year. This is more than six times the refining capacity available, which was 61.5 million tonnes in 1998-99, actually processing nearly 33 million tonnes of domestic crude. Shortfall of course was met by imports.

The draft also reveals that India has 6.8 billion tonnes of Oil and Oil-Equivalent Gas (O & OEG) reserves, out of which recoverable reserves are 2.5 billion tonnes of O & OEG. The plan suggests adding of 100 million tonnes of oil every year through hiked oil recovery processes in the existing fields. More exploration is planned in central India and Himalayan foothills where oil reserves have been identified but no discovery has so far been made. The aim is to make discoveries in most of the 26 sedimentary basins identified in the country.

How far the above proposals are turned into reality, only time will tell. However, one thing is certain: If oil sector in India is to be turned into a rewarding one, main emphasis have to be on state-of-the-art exploration. The policy of keeping more lucrative, promising and potential basins reserved for the public sector may prove to be counter-productive in the long-run. Coupled with the plan of deregulating the oil sector in 2002 AD, vivid signals are required to be sent to the potential exploration bidders that the government is serious not only about privatisation, but is also willing to put the public sector on the same footing as the private one. Increased crude production would automatically result in gradual increase in refining capabilities, which would, in turn, result in greater self-sufficiency in oil, releasing valuable foreign exchange for more productive and purposeful uses.

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Are Values Relevant Today?

India is fast becoming a materialistic society. Traditional culture and human values find little place in our lives as most of us hanker after the bigger car, the bigger house, the bigger salary and the bigger ego. In many incidents reported daily in newspapers, the absence of basic decency in our daily lives brings us to the question: are values important today? In this issue, we debate this topic which has repercussions on how we live and behave. Or should we accept that materialism is a way of life and mould our thinking and live our life worshipping the goddess of lucre?

Mr A Friends, the topic we have today is very relevant. All around us, we see that materialism is becoming the new goddess, while everything else has been reduced to a facade. Successful sportsmen have become businessmen, often neglecting their game and negotiate hard for big sponsorships. Writers are paid huge amounts as advance and the media hype ensures that their books get sold, though they may never be read. The less said about honesty in politics the better. The lure of mega-bucks has also corrupted the thinking of the middle class and we hanker after more and more goods, which we want to acquire through any means. Traditional values such as respect for others, honesty, basic decency: these lie strewn by the wayside. The current thinking among the youth is that winning is important at any cost and nothing else matters. In such a scenario, are values important or relevant today? What role do they play in our lives, if any?

Mr B Values reflect the very basis of society. Mere materialism cannot be a sustainable way to live. We have family ties, friends, people whom we love. We cannot equate them with money. Moreover, basic decency is the foundation of how we work and behave. Remove this

and we become like savages in a forest. Being civilised means that human interaction should be pleasant, we should be helpful to each other and that is the way that society develops. Some amount of decency and manners are required. Otherwise we cannot lay claim even to be civilised. Honesty, respect for elders and being good are essential requirements; they are not just cosmetic additions. I would thus say that values are very important in life. No amount of money can replace them. These are also important if we are not to degenerate into an uncivilised society. Unfortunately, many people would have us believe that our cities are "concrete jungles" and that "survival is warfare"—such phrases lend an unnecessary aggression to our behaviour. It makes us behave like uncivilised people. It is said that we are all in a "rat race", so our thinking is reduced to the level of rats. I would say that we have to rise above these clichés and take life as human beings, not as insects or rodents.

Mr C That is wisely said. But modern society—in fact, all of us—look up to people who have a lot of money. Success these days is measured in terms of assets that a person has. It does not matter how the wealth may have been acquired. Thus, society condones corruption to a very great extent, since money is all that matters. Criminals are able to exercise influence over leaders and even voters with their money power. Like it or not, money has become the supreme ruling force in our lives. If a person has money, we are willing to grant him status and respect which he otherwise may not deserve. In such a scenario, I wonder whether values can play any role in our lives at all. Take a look around you: we behave roughly with a labourer and gently with a wealthy

person, even though every religion teaches us that human beings are created equal. Parents too behave differently with a son who earns more than with another who earns less. Values are, thus, quite a waste. Today, a person must devote whole heartedly in acquiring riches. If he has to step on the toes of other people to get ahead, it is just too bad. It may sound a bit rough, but the fact is that manners, basic decency, respect for others, are all a waste of time.

Mr D Perhaps this is the thinking that has brought so much aggression and tension in our lives. If someone overtakes us on the road, we abuse him. Our cities are infested with VIP brats who will not hesitate to shoot a waiter if they do not get what they want. In villages the writ of moneyed landlords is greater than the rule of the law. These are just some vignettes of life without values. The question is: do we want a society like this? If we care to look deeper into these instances we discover two things: first, that aggression comes from a complete lack of morals and value-based education. The Hindi word for this is *sanskara*. The second is that many of us are so hollow inside that just a little aberration results in our becoming murderous. Young people have plotted to kill their parents or grandparents and there is an increase in crime in all our cities. In Chennai, eve-teasing has resulted in the deaths of young girls. These instances just reinforce the need of values in society. Yes, we are degenerating, but the causes are not far to seek. All our traditions point to respect for women and elders. They teach us to be content and to live in a simple manner. We are foregoing these traditions, and hence the degeneration in society. The importance of values become starkly

evident when we see where our society is heading.

Mr E I would like to say that the changes in society you have mentioned are taking place not just because of giving up our values, but because of a gradual modernisation of society. Some amount of violence and crime are natural as we modernise. We should not get perturbed over this. The answer is to have better law-enforcing agencies, not a return to outdated values. These have no relevance today. For instance, concepts of fate and being content in our situations will take us nowhere. Being ambitious is not a bad thing in today's world. If we are content, we can never achieve anything in life. More important, we can take recourse to your values and become goody-goody, but the world hardly respects the good guys. Today, it is either force or economic muscle that lends weight to your voice, not moral postures. I would like to explain this through an example. Today, we are fighting a war in Kargil. Hundreds of our soldiers have been killed, but our government does not want to cross the Line of Control in order to look good in the world arena. This goodness has been the cause of the conflict in the first place—we fooled ourselves that our neighbour was impressed by a bus visit. The same goodness has caused needless deaths and prolonged the battle. Today, while Pakistan revels in its bad boy image, we are losing valuable lives. The world is not going to give us a prize for being good guys, so what is the point in sticking to morals and values? If Pakistan knew that we could be as bad as them, the country would have thought twice before sending intruders. So we have to accept the fact that goodness serves no purpose in today's world. Let us be practical and not dreamy poets!

Mr A We live in times when many of our traditional thoughts and values are being called into question. Ambition is one, which you have rightly mentioned. If we are true to our tradition, we will all be fatalists. But apart from this, I find little that we should discard.

We cannot say that aggression should be a way of life, or that we should behave roughly towards people. Manners, respect and empathy do not cost anything. The VIPs and their unmannered children are not our role models. In the long run, respect is not acquired through wealth but what sort of persons we are. So it is wrong to say that values are not important. Even if you take the Kargil example, the fact that we have not crossed the LoC has earned respect for us and there is tremendous international pressure on Pakistan. Being bad is not a virtue, no matter what we may say. Maybe only goodness will not help us, so it is advisable to temper our morals with some practicality. But to discard values altogether would be foolish.

Mr B I certainly agree with that. These days it has become an excuse to be uncouth by claiming that our values are outdated. We always look at the West and say that their way is better but we forget that manners and respect are rated highly in developed societies too. So this talk that only the strong survive is nonsense. We are what we are because of our values and upbringing. Take that away and we lose a very essential part of our personality. Even if we accept that the world does not respect pure goodness, we cannot deny the fact that by losing our morals and values, we will be like savages. Our lives will not be safe anymore, with gun-toting youngsters shooting anyone who crosses their way. Decency makes our life smoother and will earn us better respect. There will, no doubt, be some people who are unnecessarily aggressive, but they are poorer for that, not richer.

Mr C Maybe we are discussing values in a very limited way. For example, one common thing we are taught is respect for elders. While this is all right, often elders use this to impose their outdated ideas on the poor children. We have seen how most of us are pushed into medical or engineering streams after school. If we fail, we are made to feel miserable. Despite the fact that so many new careers are available today, we are made to go through the

rut. So I would say that the tradition that teaches us blind respect for elders must be done away with. It has done more harm than good. It has kept us from realising our ambition and often pushes us into blind alleys. Even the fatalistic attitude that religion teaches us is just a way to preserve the status quo. It has led to caste getting entrenched in our thinking. I feel that there are many things within our tradition that must be changed. I am not against values, but I feel that there is much that needs to be changed. Our tradition has to align somewhat with the modern world. If we do not do that we will be left holding on to outdated thinking and we will be unable to achieve anything.

Mr D The discussion has brought forth several different viewpoints. Arguments were raised on both sides of the question. Finally, a consensus seems to be emerging that one need not be blindly true to one's traditions and values, but at the same time one should not blindly give in to notions of "rat race" that we are familiar with. We must assess what is good or bad for us. Also, we cannot say that values are totally irrelevant today. They certainly hold importance and are prized highly even in developed countries. I think many of the problems arise because of half-baked information about Western societies. Everyone in the West is not a punk, nor does everyone carry a gun. In India, parents are failing to teach values, or *sanskara*, and that is why the society is turning violent. Many rich politicians, bureaucrats and police officers have little to teach their children and it is their hollowness that makes them behave the way they do. The challenge is that we do not get carried away by their antics and change our way of living. Even if one is ambitious, being uncouth is hardly the way to show our modernity.

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Paragraph: Essay in Miniature

An essay must be developed in enough detail to make its general statements meaningful; so must a paragraph. In short, a paragraph is an essay in miniature.

A paragraph requires the same process of composition as a whole essay, though in smaller scope. An essay must have a purpose; so must a paragraph. The purpose of the essay is stated in the thesis, that of the paragraph in the topic sentence. An essay must have a pattern of development, its organization, likewise a paragraph has its order.

A good paragraph makes clear the meaning of its topic or idea. A paragraph intended to develop a unit of an outline or to elaborate a factor should devote itself to that task and should not stop until it has satisfactorily completed it. Its chance of succeeding will depend on how well it observes four requirements: completeness, unity, order, and coherence.

Detailed development is just as important in a paragraph as in a whole composition—indeed, no essay can be rounded out unless its paragraphs are.

Since a paragraph develops a topic sentence, stated or implied, there should be nothing in it which does not clearly serve that end. This is the principle of unity.

A unified paragraph makes clear reading. One which digresses or drifts away from its topic puts extra demands on the reader and sometimes thwarts him in his efforts to follow the writer's purpose.

If the paragraph is to be an organic unit its movement should follow some clear order. There are several different ways in which the material of paragraphs may be arranged. But while there may be no one inevitable order for a given paragraph, certainly some orders will be more effective than others.

A paragraph is like organization in an essay. Thus, a topic sentence may be developed by clarifying statement, causal expla-

nation, example, comparison, contrast, or analytical division.

Because the paragraph is smaller in scope than the essay, it may be simpler to consider paragraph order as direction. (1) from one time to the next, (2) from one space to an adjoining space, (3) from particular statements to a general statement or conclusion, (4) from a general statement to particular statements, (5) from question to answer or from effect to cause.

A time, or chronological order is the natural order of narration and is commonly used in explaining the steps in a process. Events are recorded in the order in which they occur—first, second, next, and so on to the last.

A space order is useful when the writer wishes to report what he sees. The movement of the paragraph thus follows the movement of his eyes. That movement must have some continuity which a reader can recognize and follow. It need not start at the far left and move steadily to the far right, or vice versa, since in any view an observer's gaze is likely to be drawn quickly to the most conspicuous object. But there should be some logical or natural progression from one descriptive detail to the next.

A common order in paragraphs is from a succession of particular statements to the general statement or conclusion to which the particulars lead. By this order the reader is led to the conclusion through details of evidence or illustration. Hence, the order is often called inductive, from the Latin word meaning to "lead in".

The most popular order for expository paragraphs begins with a general statement, then moves to particulars which explain or illustrate, or persuade the reader to accept the generalization. This order is similar to the illustrative pattern for developing an essay.

In effect, the topic sentence at or near the beginning of the paragraph states the

purpose, and the subsequent sentences illustrate it. Sometimes, in the paragraph that follows, the italicised topic sentence is developed by two three sentences, each of which adds an illustration.

Less common than any of the orders we have considered so far is the paragraph that begins with a question and moves toward the answer, or begins with an effect and moves toward the cause.

Such a paragraph usually has no explicit topic sentence, since the answer to the question or the cause of the effect is explained by the paragraph as a whole. But the opening questions, problem, or dilemma announces the purpose of the paragraph clearly.

Literally, the word cohere means to hold together. A paragraph is said to have coherence when its sentences are woven together or flow into each other.

If a paragraph is coherent, the reader moves easily from one sentence to the next without feeling that there are gaps in the thought, puzzling jumps, or points not made.

If a paragraph lacks coherence, the reader will feel that the sentence, not the paragraph, is the unit of writing, that he is reading a collection of separate statements rather than an integrated discussion.

The commonest transitional connectives may be classified as follows:

1. To introduce an illustration: thus, for example, for instance, to illustrate.

2. To add another phase of the same idea: secondly, in the second place, next, moreover, in addition, similarly, again, also, finally.

3. To point a contrast or qualification: on the other hand, nevertheless, despite this fact, on the contrary, still, however.

4. To indicate a conclusion or result: therefore, in conclusion, to sum up, consequently, as a result, accordingly, in other words.

Questions on Economic and Social Problems

Q. Suggest a few measures or reforms to revamp the present state of economic affairs in the country.

Ans. The economic crisis in our country have been imminent from early 90s. In order to control the situation a wave of reforms have been launched from time to time by various Finance Ministers belonging to respective governments which were essentially crisis-driven.

A few measures can be suggested to ensure the fiscal health of the country

1. The Fiscal Responsibility Act : It is the need of the hour to adopt the Fiscal Responsibility Act by the Parliament. This would limit budget deficits and safeguard economy from further debt trap.

This would also improve the quality of governance and downsizing the role of government by opening non-strategic public sector enterprises like electricity, water, transport, banking to privatisation.

These measures will encourage private investments, reduce cost for customers and improve quality by promoting competition.

Except defence and space, all other areas can afford the inception of private sector. This will also enhance transparency in all sectors of economy.

Under this Act, the Centre and States need to redefine their role and act responsibly. The need is to generate resources, increase investments and improve quality of the services.

2. Create a new institutional architecture: There is a need to create a new institutional architecture for management of Indian economy. It is important to recognise full-fledged modern market economy where stability, predictability and transparency of policies are necessary pre-requisites.

3. Greater Autonomy: The financial institutions like the Reserve Bank of India

should be granted greater autonomy, so that it can establish itself as an independent monetary authority.

More privileges and independence should be given to Securities and Exchange Board, Telecom Authority and Central Electricity Commission. This will increase the powers of these institutions and the confidence of consumers in these sectors

4 Reduction in interest rates: The interest rates of short-term or long-term loans should be reduced. No country in the world can achieve sustained growth with high interest rates

5 De-licensing to be encouraged: The phase of de-licensing should be encouraged. The industrial licenses and import barriers should be abolished.

6. Overall Market Reforms: The reforms in labour market, capital market, natural resources market and land market cannot be ignored. The labour market reforms are of utmost importance and its flexibility should match the market changes.

7. Literacy: Last but not least, the increasing rate of literacy is a necessary pre-requisite, if our economy is to become self-sufficient and sustainable.

As we enter the next millennium, the Indian economy has two options to avail, firstly—business-as-usual road with low growth rate or the road to prosperity through accelerated reforms.

Q. The single European Currency 'Euro' has led to ups and downs in the European economic scenario, also, affecting the world economy. Explain.

Ans. On January 1, 1999, the eleven European nations and 290 million people joined hands to form the EMU (European Monetary Union) which is termed as the most ambitious monetary experiment of its kind.

The eleven European countries—Germany, France, Austria, Belgium,

Finland, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Luxembourg—left behind their distinctive currency identities to launch a currency, single and common to all.

It has been termed by various economic experts as a big challenge to the mighty U.S. dollars.

The advantages of the single currency are enlisted as follows:

1. Euro is a child of EMU and EMU was born to the dream of unified Europe. This will lead to greater European prosperity and a possible United States of Europe.

2. The birth of Euro also fulfils a dream nurtured for decades by the yesteryears' rulers like Julius Caesar, Napoleon, Hitler, Karl Marx and revives the grandeur of Europe.

3. The advent of Euro will surely send ripples in the world economic markets. It is expected to produce a new economic superpower to rival the United States and its dollar.

4. In near future, the Euro zone will form the world's greatest trading partner. This will lead to formation of strong and stable Europe.

5. It is further estimated by economic experts, that the GDP of the European countries would register growth over the United States. In addition the European businesses would save billions every year on currency conversion within the European Union.

6. The major advantage for other countries would be easy handling of foreign debts and funds which don't involve dozens of currencies.

7. Euro is likely to be a boon for Indian exporters frequently travelling to the EMU zone. The traveller will save on at least three per cent foreign exchange since there wouldn't be any need to change currencies while entering a different country.

The countries in Europe have started

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I took the Mock-CAT published by THE COMPETITION MASTER in December '98. I joined Mastermind and I was able to get calls from a number of CAT institutes. I will finally be joining MDI,

Gurgaon. I can say that the guidance provided by THE COMPETITION MASTER is the best and certainly better than the commercial approach of many coaching centres.

Vandana Soni, Haridwar



I have been a regular reader of CM since 1994. This year I took two competitive exams and cleared both of them. I have also been successful in college-level quiz and essay-writing contests. I am indebted to CM for positive guidance and the help it has provided to build my personality. Regular reading of the magazine is really helpful to get the winning edge.

Kashu Nath Pandey, Agra



I had some problems but THE COMPETITION MASTER helped me get over them. I followed your advice regularly and gradually I felt the confidence building up in

me. I received admission offers from CAT institutes and also Symbiosis, Pune but will be joining IILM, New Delhi. Today there is happiness in my heart and it is all because you helped a youngster get the confidence to face the world.

Arvind Verma, Panchkula



I have been a science student but read CM regularly. After reading your management special issue, I started thinking about a career in management. Through your guidance, I have secured admission in Apeejay School of Marketing, New Delhi. I thank you for your help.

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| 1. B.A.M.S. Degree Course : | } S.D.M. College of Ayurveda, Kuthpady, Udupi - 574 118, D.K. |
| 2. M.D. (P.G. Course) : | |
| 3. B.A.M.S. Degree Course : | S.D.M. College of Ayurveda, B.M. Road, Hassan - 573 201. |
| 4. B.N.Y.S. Degree Course : | S.D.M. College of Naturopathy & Yogic Science, Ujire - 574 240. |
| 5. B.Sc. (Physiotherapy) : | S.D.M. College of Physiotherapy, Dhavalanagar, Dharwad-580 002. |

Eligibility: 80% of marks in 10+2 level in PCB for category 1 & 3 and 45% for 4 & 5 courses and BAMS degree course for category 2.

Application forms can be had on payment of Rs. 300/- in cash or by D.D. from the Principals of the respective colleges or from:

The Secretary, S.D.M. Educational Society, Ujire - 574 240.

Phone: 08256 - 61226 (Off.), 61226 (Res.). Fax: 08256 - 61220.

Business GK

1. Name the airline that started a fare war among airlines on the Mumbai-Delhi route by slashing prices

- a) Indian Airlines b) Jet Airways
c) NEPC Airlines d) Sahara Airlines

2. In the Businessworld-Indica survey on the most respected companies of India, which company has been rated at the first rank?

- a) HLL b) Glaxo
c) Ranbaxy d) Coca Cola

3. Who is the chief executive of the company mentioned in Q 2?

- a) H R Khusrokhhan
b) K B Dadiseth
c) D.S. Brar d) M A Pathan

4. The brands 'Spinz' perfume and 'Nyle' Herbal shampoo are owned by which of the following companies?

- a) CavinKare b) HLL
c) Shulton d) P&G

5. In the first Media Lions contest at Cannes, Indian agencies won two Gold Lions for media innovations. Name the agencies which won this award

- a) HTA and Contract
b) Enterprise-Nexus and O&M
c) Intas and HTA
d) Intas and O&M

6. A 50-year soap is advertising for the first time and has been positioned for youngsters. Name the brand

- a) Lifebuoy b) Lux
c) Chandrika d) Mysore Sandal

7. Which product inserted its advertisements in the running commentaries of the World Cup on All India Radio every time an Indian player scored a boundary, a six, or took a wicket?

- a) Bournvita b) Milo
c) Rooh Afza
d) Dabur Chyawanprash

8. What is the level of India's external debt, as revealed in the white paper of the Union Finance Ministry in May '99?

- a) \$ 95 billion b) \$ 100 million
c) \$ 100 billion d) \$ 95 million

9. Which is the foreign partner of Hindustan Times in their joint venture in insurance?

- a) Zurich Insurance
b) Commercial Union
c) IL&FS d) Prudential

10. The famous 'Ray-Ban' brand of sun glasses has been taken over by an Italian company. Which of the following companies is the new owner of Ray-Ban?

- a) Bausch & Lomb
b) Luxottica Group
c) Gucci d) Armani

11. Which company uses the byline, "Your moment has arrived" in its advertising?

- a) Arrow shirts
b) DHL Worldwide Express
c) Lufthansa d) Mercedes

12. The Harvard Business School has done a case study on the successful turnaround of a company in India, which recorded a 133 per cent increase in profitability in 1998. Which company is the subject of the case study?

- a) IDBI b) HDFC c) Bata d) Philips

13. The hybrid car, Prius, which is very environment friendly, is the product of which of the following car manufacturing companies?

- a) Toyota b) Ford
c) Mitsubishi d) General Motors

14. In the World Competitiveness Report, 1999, which country has been rated as the most competitive in the world?

- a) USA b) Singapore
c) Finland d) Germany

15. In the above report, what is India's rank among 47 countries?

- a) 29 b) 39 c) 43 d) 47

16. Which toothpaste has been re-launched by adding the words 'Super Shakti' to it?

- a) Pepsodent b) Vicco
c) Colgate d) Close Up

17. Which company has launched a car named 'Ikon'?

- a) Honda b) Ford

c) Hyundai d) Toyota

18. Which company asks you to 'Challenge the limits' in its advertising?

- a) Hyundai b) Aiwa
c) LG d) Samsung

19. Who is the creator of the comic strip, Dilbert?

- a) Scott Adams b) Michael Hammer
c) George Skaria d) Carl Shankar

20. Name the company that has developed Bijlee, India's first commercially viable electrically operated three-wheeler?

- a) Tata b) Bajaj
c) Mahindra & Mahindra
d) Kinetic

21. Which company claims to have 'the technology that drives the world'?

- a) Mercedes b) Bridgestone
c) Samsung d) Hewlett Packard

22. Which of the following manages the Children's Gift Growth Fund?

- a) LIC b) IDBI c) SBI d) UTI

23. In the market for talcum powder, which brand is the market leader, with over 48% market share?

- a) Pond's Dreamflower b) Cinthol
c) Johnson & Johnson

24. Who owns the image management company, IMG?

- a) Kapil Dev b) Sunil Gavaskar
c) Mark McCormack
d) Bjorn Borg

25. What is Cyrix?

- a) A computer program
b) A computer printer
c) A new investment scheme
d) A semiconductor company

ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (d) | 2. (b) | 3. (a) | 4. (a) |
| 5. (b) | 6. (c) | 7. (d) | 8. (a) |
| 9. (b) | 10. (b) | 11. (d) | 12. (c) |
| 13. (a) | 14. (a) | 15. (b) | 16. (c) |
| 17. (b) | 18. (d) | 19. (a) | 20. (c) |
| 21. (b) | 22. (d) | 23. (a) | 24. (c) |
| 25. (d) | | | |

General Studies Scene

Q. 1. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Lithosphere (b) Hydrosphere (c) Biosphere (d) Astronomy (e) DNA.

Ans. (a) Lithosphere: Top crust of the earth is called Lithosphere on which our ocean basins and continents rest. Average thickness of the Lithosphere is about 40 km and it is thinnest in the oceans with a maximum thickness of 10 to 12 kms. It constitutes about one per cent of earth's volume and 0.4 per cent of its mass. On the land mass, we generally see soil and sand, and at places rocks. Originally, when the molten magma erupted from the interior of the earth, most of earth's surface had rocks, but with the process of weathering of rocks over thousands of years, when these rocks remained exposed to the extreme weather conditions, the rocks gradually broke into sand and soil. Due to slow process of cooling and contraction of earth, many changes have occurred on the surface of the earth and continental drift is considered to be one of such changes.

(b) Hydrosphere: Hydrosphere is that part of outer surface of the earth which includes oceans, lakes and rivers. As per one estimate, the hydrosphere contains about 1460 million cubic km of water. Out of this about 97.3 per cent is contained in oceans and inland seas and just 2.7 per cent is found as rivers, fresh water lakes, ground-water, glaciers and ice-caps. Due to climatic condition this ratio may vary to a small extent. Oceans cover about 71 per cent of the total areas of earth and hold about 1445 million cubic km of water. Ocean water is not potable as it contains about 3.5 per cent of salts including chlorine, sodium, sulphur, calcium, potassium, bromine etc. The hydrological or water cycle includes evaporation from oceans and lakes/rivers, condensation, precipitation (rain) and, overland and groundwater flows to the ocean again. There are four oceans including Pacific, Atlantic, Indian and Arctic oceans, Pacific being the largest. These oceans do not have any demarcated boundaries and naturally merge into one another.

(c) Biosphere: Also known as eco-system, biosphere is an evolutionary system, representing a stable equilibrium of various physical and biological factors which have been operating in the past. The continuity of this system rests on a network of interdependent relationships that exist between various biological and zoological species. The air, the water, the humans and the animals, plants, bacteria, microbes and soil, all are invisibly interlinked in a life-sustaining system called environment. It is estimated that there are about 3,50,000 species of plants and 11 million animal species on earth. The biosphere supplies all requisites of life like water, air, food, light, heat etc, to all these species and all these requisites form a natural rhythm, to which every living organism adjusts.

(d) Astronomy: Astronomy is the science of visual exploration

of our space. Modern astronomy began in 1609 when an Italian astronomer named Galileo developed an instrument called refractor telescope, which made a beginning of optical astronomy. With his newly developed telescope, Galileo made several new discoveries in astronomy. Later, in 1668, Newton developed a new instrument called reflector telescope. Again, more recently in 1973 Karl Jansky developed the first radio telescope for studying the entire sky and analysing radiations. After 60s, the satellites are being extensively used for studying the space. Early nineties witnessed development of a new category of telescopes which are the most developed ones called "super telescopes" designed to be affixed on mountain tops around the world.

(e) DNA: DNA stands for Deoxyribonucleic Acid. The mystery surrounding the genes was cleared up with the discovery of the structure of DNA in 1953. One of the four types of little molecules including Adenine, Cytosine, Thymine and Guanine are attached to a nucleotide in DNA. The recent technique of genetic engineering is largely depended on grafting and manipulation of DNA which has many applications including health, breed improvement in cattle/animals and variety improvement of agricultural seeds.

Q. 2. What are the peculiar features of Indian federalism? Do you agree that Indian Constitution is basically federal with some striking unitary features?

Ans. India is a Union of States, which has two peculiar things, firstly that the Indian federation is not a result of agreement by the units and, secondly, the provinces have no freedom to secede from the Union. Indian Constitution has the following four features, essentially required in a federal system.

(a) Dual Government There are two governments, one at the Centre and another at the State-level, with States having no power to secede.

(b) Distribution of Powers: Every federal system has been given legislative powers, and legislative functions of the Union and States have been earmarked. Residuary powers are, however, with the Union.

(c) Supremacy of the Constitution: Just like other federations, Indian federal system also derives its existence from the Constitution of India. All the powers of the federation are subordinate to and controlled by the Constitution.

(d) Authority of Courts: Legal supremacy of the Constitution is essential for the existence of a federal system. Indian Constitution also provides the hierarchy of courts with the Supreme Court of India at the apex and High Courts in every State, thus fulfilling yet another requirement of a federal system.

Although all the above essential features of a federation are provided for in the Indian Constitution, yet there are certain fea-

tures which differ from typical federal system of the world, some of which are as under:

(i) **Mode of Formation:** Most of the federal systems in the world are formed by a voluntary agreement between a number of sovereign and independent States, with slight change in case of Canadian federation, where the provinces of unitary State were transformed into a federal Union to make themselves autonomous. In India, the federal system was evolved over a longer period of time in historical perspective, with gradual movement towards the existing system.

(ii) **Position of States:** Indian States were not sovereign entities before the federation came into existence, hence the Indian Constitution does not provide for safeguarding the State rights. Moreover, residuary powers in India vest in the Union, as against the practice in most of federations. Also, no State in India, except the State of J & K has the power to have their separate Constitutions. Further, while amending the Indian Constitution, limited role is given to the State legislatures, while in the USA, the States have to be consulted before any amendment is made. Another deviation is that the Governors in India are appointed by the President. Further, the States in Indian federation have no right to secede from the Union. The representation of the States in the Union legislature is also not uniform in India.

(iii) **Nature of Status:** While citizens in most of the federations have dual citizenship, in India, only single citizenship, that of the Union, is available to Indian citizens. Further, in India, there is no division of public service, where All India Services are common to the States and the Centre. Similarly, there is no system of dual courts and the same set of courts in India adjudicate on the laws framed by the Union as well as the States.

The above features prompted a foreign critic, Prof Wheare, to term the Indian Constitution as quasi-federal. But a close appreciation of above features indicate that Indian system is not extremely federal and it is a federation with strong Central tendency. Rather than being closer to a pure federation like the USA, Indian system is closer to that of Canadian federation. The difference between the two lies in degree and extent of the Unitary emphasis. Hence, while Indian Constitution fulfils the basic conditions required for a federal system, it has strong unitary bias, evolved mainly due to historic reasons.

Q. 3. What are the Special Area Development Programmes being implemented by the Government of India?

Ans. Several special area development programmes are being implemented in the country, which are aimed at rapid economic development of specific areas needing special attention. Some of these special programmes are as under:

(a) **Hill Area Development Programme:** There are several areas which are classified as hill areas which include north eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh, and some parts of the States like Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala and Goa. Main problems faced in these hill areas are deforestation, soil erosion, flash floods and dwindling agricultural output. Indiscriminate cutting of trees, low water retention capability, poor

economies, practice of shifting cultivation, etc are some of the factors responsible for these problems. Special Central Assistance is received by States for execution of schemes under Hill Area Development Plan (HADP), allocation to which are received by the States as additive to normal State plan funds. Both types of schemes, thus, need integration at the stage of implementation. The programmes implemented under HADP are aimed at promoting the basic life support system with sustainable use of the natural resources of the area concerned. Ecology and environment are two special areas which receive attention under this programme. During the Eighth Five Year Plan period, special emphasis were placed on modernising the agricultural practices, small scale, and cottage industries at the village-level. Up to the beginning of Eighth Plan, the special Central assistance to the tune of Rs 290 crore per annum was given to the selected hill areas and the total funds allocated for such assistance during the Eighth Plan were Rs 1450 crore.

(b) **Western Ghats Development Programme:** Western Ghats hill ranges run to a length of about 1600 km and are almost parallel to the Western coast, starting from delta of river Tapti in Maharashtra upto Kanyakumari, covering a total area of about 1,60,000 sq km and having a population of over 40 million. This area is facing certain environmental and ecological problems like increasing population pressures, felling of trees for cash crops like tea, coffee, rubber etc, increasing mining operations, soil erosion, etc. Main emphasis of this programme has been on afforestation, minor irrigation, tourism, horticulture, infrastructure development schemes and restoration of the damage caused to the ecology.

(c) **Schemes of North Eastern Council:** After the passage of North Eastern Council Act in 1971, funds are being provided by the government of India through the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Council for implementing various schemes. The Council generally takes up area-specific small schemes in the field of socio-economic development, inter-State transport and communication, power, flood control etc. The total outlay for the Council during the Eighth Plan was Rs 1160 crore.

(d) **Border Area Development Programme:** With a view to ensure balanced development of the border areas of the Western region, this programme was launched in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The aim was to provide better infrastructural facilities and promotion of a sense of security among the local population. Initially, the programme covered the States of Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat, and was extended to the J & K. Eighth Five Year Plan provided an outlay of Rs 640 crore for this programme.

(e) **Desert Development Programme:** This programme was started in 1977-78 for development of hot as well as cold desert regions of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, J & K and Himachal Pradesh. In these States, it is operative in 131 blocks of 21 districts. The aim is to control the desertification, mitigating the effects of draught, restoring the ecological balance and raising productivity of land. 100 per cent assistance is given by the Centre for the programme and allocations are made at the rate of Rs 24 lakh per 1000 sq kms, with a ceiling of Rs 500 lakh per district. For cold deserts of Himachal and J & K, Rs 100 lakh and 150 lakh per district, respectively, are made for cold deserts.

Admission Alert

The Competition Master's Guide to Opportunities

This feature alerts our readers about forthcoming examinations and opportunities. Institutes should send us information well in advance to be included here. Readers are advised to assess their own suitability and that of the institute before applying—this feature is not a recommendation of any course or institute

Air Force

Education Instructor Trade—Eligibility: B.A./B.Sc (Hons) or B.A./B.Sc with a teaching degree or one year teaching experience; date of birth between January 1, 1976 and January 1, 1980. Last date: August 2, 1999. Apply to: President, Central Airmen Selection Board, Post Box 3004, New Delhi - 110 003. For details see advt published on July 3, 1999.

Army

Ninth University Entry Scheme—Eligibility: Engineering students, age between 19-25 years. Last date: August 5, 1999. Apply on the prescribed format to: H.Q. Command of the respective area. For more details see advt published on June 30, 1999.

Computers

PG Diploma in Software Engineering (PGDSE- 1 year, full time)—Eligibility: B.Sc, BE, M.Sc, M.Tech, MBA with a minimum of 55% marks. Course fee: Rs 1 lakh, loan facility available. Last date: August 16, 1999. Written test: Date to be announced. Apply on the prescribed format to: Mahindra Institute of Software Engineering and Management, 4th floor, Wing 1, Oberoi Estate Gardens, Chandivali, Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 072 with a DD for Rs 650.

Correspondence Courses

1. **B.A. (English, Pol. Science), B.Com**—Eligibility: Class 12. Last date: October 29, 1999. Apply to: Principal, School of Correspondence Courses and Continuing Education, South Moti Bagh, Nanak Pura, New Delhi - 110 021 with a DD for Rs 15.

2. **Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA), Bachelor/Master in Mass Communication (BMC/MMC)**—Eligibility: Class 12 for BBA, Graduation for BMC, and Bachelor or PG Diploma in Journalism/Mass Communication. For MMC, Last date: August 16, 1999. Apply to: Assistant Registrar (DE), GJ University, Hisar with a DD for Rs 150. Prospectus also available at nodal centres of the University.

3. **B.A., B.Sc, B.Com, BCA, MA, M.Com, M.Sc**—Eligibility: Class 12 for Bachelors and Graduation for Masters courses. Last date: August 13, 1999 for Open University system and September 17, 1999 for regular courses. Apply to: Director, Institute of Correspondence Education, University of Madras, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005 with a DD for Rs 100.

Engineering

Diploma Course in Tool and Die Making (4 years)—Eligibility: Matriculation or equivalent with 50% marks, age between 15-18 years. Written test: September 5, 1999. Last date: August 5, 1999. Apply to: General Manager, Indo-Danish Tool Room, M-4 Phase VI, Tata Kandra Road, Gamharla, Jamshedpur - 832 108 with a DD for Rs 280.

Management

Management Aptitude Test (MAT)—To be held on: September 5, 1999. Last date: August 9, 1999. Apply to: AIMA-CMS, Management House, 14 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003 with a DD for Rs 150. Prospectus also available at AIMA Nodal Centres.

Scholarships

Cambridge Nehru Scholarships for Ph.D at University of Cambridge—Eligibility: First class honours degree and age below 28 years. Last date: September 8, 1999. Apply to: Nehru Trust for Cambridge University, Teen Murti House, Teen Murti Marg, New Delhi - 110 011 with full details of academic qualifications.

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Liberty Wedding Range

It's that festive of the year again—decorative streets, brass bands and grand feasts. Yes you guessed it right, it's wedding time.

And with it comes often the change to entirely revamp your wardrobe. Talking wardrobes, nowadays no wardrobe is complete without the right footwear. Now no longer just an accessory, footwear has become more of a necessity. Liberty the country's leading footwear manufacturer recently unveiled its new wedding collection



for summers.

In a wide choice for both men and women, the range comprises styles from the classy and elegant looking formal to a wide choice of colours for men to the more ornate and fancy collection with rich overtones for women. The perfect blend of luxury, comfort, style and quality, that has always been a part of Liberty.

The ideal complement to your wedding attire, their versatility makes sure they can be worn even in day to day life. So if you are planning to get married this season step into your Liberty Showroom and suit your feet for the occasion.

Many institutes, including universities and government-run organisations, reject forms of applications if there are mistakes in it or are received late. But they encash the bank draft and keep the money. Should they not return the money if the application is rejected due to any reason?

—Deepak Gaur, Bilaspur (H P)

We agree that institutes should not keep the application money if the forms are rejected. The applications

are, however, handled by junior

clerks or inconsiderate officers. They have got used to a style of functioning, which can only be broken if an applicant moves court against this exploitative practice. Since it is a time-consuming process, an individual does not take recourse to the courts. Perhaps with increase in transparency in society, this practice may change too in the near future.

When and why was NATO formed? I would like the complete details on this.

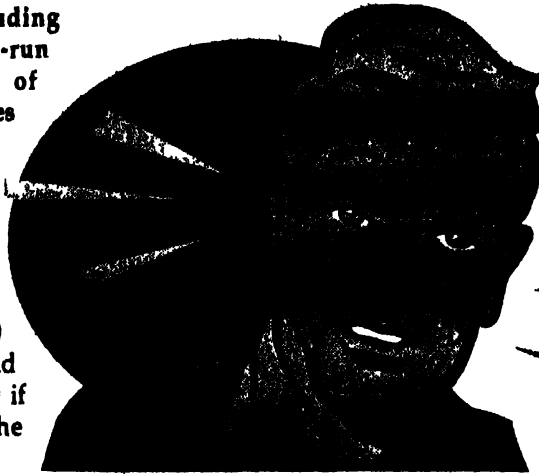
—Roshan Kumar, Patna (Bihar)

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is an extension of the 1948 Brussels Treaty for military cooperation among five European nations. The treaty is directed at the threat of armed communist attack in Europe or the North Atlantic or Mediterranean area. The new treaty was signed in April, 1949. We have published a backgrounder on NATO in our September '97 issue.

I wish to appear in the SSC exams. Could you tell me some details of the examination?

—Sushil Soni, Vill Jhalera (H P)

The SSC exam is of two hours duration, consisting of Parts A and B. Part A deals with General Intelligence and General Awareness while Part B is of Arithmetic. Both parts carry 100 marks each. The exercises published in



for staying and food. This might be too difficult or expensive for a person who does not belong to Delhi. If you are not willing to take up the huge task of shifting, it may be advisable to subscribe to a correspondence course for 2 years. Your son can attend classes in Delhi during summer vacations while preparing himself with the help of correspondence notes.

I stay in Rohtak but there is no healthy atmosphere

here, nor facilities which can help you clear competitive exams. But I have failed to clear the entrance exam of an institute in Bangalore. Should I appear again?

—Sukhda Singh, Rohtak (Haryana)

Since you have not cleared the entrance examination of institutes in other cities, it may be advisable to continue studies in Rohtak. For preparing again, you will waste one year and even then success may not be certain. There is a saying "a bird in the hand is better than two in the bush". We suggest you continue your studies in Rohtak.

What is a 'White Paper'?

—H.S. Chakravarty, Behrampur (Orissa)

White paper is a report published by the government about its policy on a matter that is to be considered by Parliament.

I am very keen to become an air-hostess. What are the basic requirements? Could you recommend an academy?

—Neha Singh, Chandigarh

The basic requirement to become an Air Hostess is a height of 154-170 cm, a good personality and fluency in some languages. For more details, see careers in travel and tourism in our November '98 issue. We regret we are not in a position to recommend any training academy for the purpose.

COMPTITION MASTER on reasoning, Maths and English are very helpful in SSC exams

What is the difference between e-mail and fax?

—Kahul Kumar, Bokaro Steel City (Bihar)

E-mail is the transmission of computer messages through telephone lines, while fax means transmission of documents. Please refer to our regular feature 'Cyber World' for understanding all these terms.

I am interested in NIFT. How does one get admission there?

—Deepthi Rathore, Kanpur (U P)

If you are artistically inclined, you can think of a fashion design course at NIFT, which is the premier institute of India. Collect a portfolio of your work. Appear in the entrance test while you are in class 12. If you can clear the test and interview, you can be on the road to becoming a fashion designer without break in your studies.

I want my son to be selected to IIT. Are there any coaching schools which provide coaching for two years?

—A. Prakash, Dehradun (U.P.)

There are a number of coaching schools in Delhi which provide IIT-JEE coaching from class 10. However, it would mean getting your child admitted to a school in Delhi as also arrangements

ASK THE MASTER!

QUESTION 1

I have a burning desire to become an industrialist. What should I do?

—Manish Kumar, Lucknow (U.P.)

To become an industrialist, ideally you should have a good training in business administration. Try to get through to IIM for a PGDBM degree or look for some entrepreneur development programmes. Once you have a knowledge of the business world, you can easily identify an opportunity and cash in on it.

How are examination marks scaled?

—Siddhartha Singh, Lucknow (U.P.)

If all the candidates are getting very high or very less marks in a paper, their marks may be scaled upward or downward by multiplying them with a factor. All marks are multiplied by the same factor so the merit is maintained. Institutes may do this to equalise scores among different papers and to get over the problem of comparing papers which may be considered too easy or difficult

How is IQ calculated?

—Firoz Anwar, Muzaffarpur (Bihar)

Intelligence Quotient (IQ) is usually calculated by means of a test. General intelligence questions are asked to find out how a person tackles them.

Why can't ordinary batteries be charged?

—Animesh Deb, Agartala, Tripura

Ordinary batteries generate current by means of a chemical reaction. Once the chemicals are spent, the battery cannot be recharged.

Why do engineers do MBA? What will be the demand for BE-MBA in 2003?

—S.K. Sarkar, Dhenkanal (Orissa)

As there are not many job openings after BE and growth is limited, engineers prefer to do MBA. Their demand is expected to increase in the future.

What is the reason for premature greying of hair? How can it be stopped?

—Daljeet Dogra, New Delhi

Greying of hair is usually due to genetic reasons. It cannot be stopped, though it is believed that a good diet and exercise may delay greying of hair.

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AUGUST

India

The array of significant events which occurred during the months of August include: Surendra Nath Banerji hoisting Tri-colour—Green, Yellow and Red (the earliest form of Indian tri-coloured flag) in Calcutta on August 7, 1906; death of Madan Lal Dhingra in gallows at Pentonville Prison London on August 17, 1909; E S Montague the Secretary of State for India, announcing on August 20, 1917 a scheme towards establishing responsible Government in India formal inauguration of non-cooperation movement at Bombay by Mahatma Gandhi on August 1, 1920; Vithalbhai Patel winning elections of Indian President for the Central Legislature Assembly on August 22, 1925; historic meet at Ferozeshah Kotla grounds on August 8, 1928 of Hindustan Republican Army, wherein revolutionaries from various parts of India assembled and declared 'Independence and Socialism as Indian Goal', announcement of 'Communal Award' by British Prime Minister MacDonald on August 16, 1932, endorsing of 'Quit India Resolution' by All India Congress Committee at Bombay on August 8, 1942; Subhash Chandra Bose holding function at Bangkok University Auditorium to commemorate the first Anniversary of Quit India on August 9, 1943; birth of Indian Dominion at 12 midnight on August 15, 1947; liberation of Dadra and Nagar Haveli by local volunteers on August 2, 1954; Satyagrahis crossing into Goa for its liberation on August 19, 1955; Congress Working Committee approving on August 8, 1963 Kamraj plan urging 'some prominent Congressmen should resign from ministerial post for the organisational work'; formal launching

of NCC on August 14, 1963 by Jawahar Lal Nehru, Pakistani infiltrators making futile attempt to make August 8, 1965 (the annual festival day of Pir Dastgir Sahib, a local saint of Srinagar) the day of Kashmir's deliverance from India, Doordarshan starting regular transmission in colour on August 15, 1984; Parliament passing Constitution Amendment for including Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali in the 8th Schedule on August 20, 1992; President K R Narayanan promulgating *Prasar Bharati* ordinance on August 29, 1998.

Dedicatory

Guy de Maupassant, the French writer and novelist, was born on August 5, 1850

Sri Aurobindo Ghose, Indian revolutionary philosopher and author of the fame of 'Essays on Gita', was born on August 15, 1872 in Calcutta

(Sir) Donald George Bradman, the Australian Cricketer who with an average of 99.94 in 52 tests and considered to be the most outstanding batsman of all time, was born on August 28, 1908

Amrita Pritam, noted Punjabi author of the fame of *Rascals Ticket*, was born on August 31, 1919 in Gujranwala.

Helen Newsington Moody, who won 8 singles wins in Wimbledon, was born on August 30, 1923

International

On the international scenario the events which emerge into prominence during the months of August include: setting up of Triple Entente between Britain, France and Russia in opposition to the Central

Powers on August 31, 1907; official opening of Panama Canal to traffic on August 15, 1914; Russian forces loosing Battle of Tannenberg to Germany on August 26, 1914; women receiving Right to Vote in United States on August 26, 1920; Plebiscite in Germany giving power to Adolf Hitler as Fuehrer on August 19, 1934; signing of non-aggression pact by USSR and Germany on August 23, 1939, signing of Atlantic Charter by Churchill and Roosevelt on August 11, 1941; Allied troops entering Paris on August 25, 1944; Soviet troops entering Romania on August 30, 1944, US bombers dropping an atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, US bombers dropping an atomic bomb on Nagasaki on August 8, 1945, ending of World War II on August 14, 1945; NATO coming into force on August 24, 1949; USSR exploding hydrogen bomb on August 29, 1953; Geneva Conference to discuss peaceful uses of atomic energy on August 8, 1955, USSR launching Sputnik on August 27, 1958; Hawaii becoming 50th State of the USA on August 21, 1959; East Germany erecting Berlin Wall on August 17-18, 1961; installation of hot-line linking Kremlin with White House on August 31, 1963; signing of Bangkok declaration towards the formation of ASEAN on August 8, 1967; Sir Garfield Sobers hitting Malcom Nash for 36 runs in an over at Swansea on August 31, 1968; Cairo Radio announcing on 'official merger of Egypt and Libya into one new State' on August 29, 1973; Third World countries endorsing to establish Global Bank owned and funded by the Group of 77 on August 28, 1982; Burma getting readmitted to NAM on August 31, 1992.

Test of Reasoning-1

Qs. 1-5. In each question below is given a series. Your task is to find out from options (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) the set that would form the next group in the series:

1. AmP CpQ EsR GvS
(1) JzN (2) IxU (3) IyT (4) KyZ
(5) None of these
2. Jcd Kbf Lah Mzj
(1) Pbm (2) Nyl (3) Qym (4) Jdr
(5) None of these
3. MNPS UVXA CDFI KLNQ
(1) TUWZ (2) RSUX (3) RTSV (4) STVY
(5) None of these
4. A7BD F22GI K37LN P52QS
(1) T66WY (2) U67VX (3) U68WY
(4) T67VX (5) None of these
5. BC-1F GH4K LM9P QR14U
(1) VW19Z (2) WX21A (3) VX20Z
(4) VW22Z (5) None of these

Qs. 6-8 are based on the word **IMPROVEMENT**. In each question, five words are given. Four of the given words are related to the key word in the same way while one is different. Your task is to find this odd-man out:

6. (1) MOVEMENT (2) REVIVE (3) IMPROVE
(4) PREVENT (5) EVENT
7. (1) MOVE (2) RENT (3) MEET
(4) POET (5) TIME
8. (1) IMPART (2) COMMENT
(3) PRIVATE (4) PRETEND
(5) REPAIR

Qs. 9 to 15 are based on the combined series of letters, numbers and symbols given below:

M 4 Q □ K 8 P G ⊕ 9 P □ ⊗ 8 N K
Δ 7 ∪ Y T 3 □ M 9 ⊕ 8 P ∪ 4 Q Y

9. How many types of symbols have been used in the series?

- (1) 4 (2) 5 (3) 6 (4) 7 (5) 8

10. What is the ratio in the frequency of numbers and letters?

- (1) 1 : 2 (2) 2 : 3 (3) 3 : 4 (4) 4 : 5 (5) None of these

11. How many letters in the series are preceded by a number and followed by a symbol?

- (1) 3 (2) 4 (3) 5 (4) 6 (5) None of these

12. How many numbers have either letters or symbols on both the sides?

- (1) 2 (2) 3 (3) 4 (4) 5 (5) None of these

13. MQ□ is to Y4∪ as P⊕9 is to:

- (1) 89M (2) ⊕9□ (3) 8⊕M
(4) ⊕M□ (5) None of these

14. Which of the symbols, letters and numbers have been repeated the most in the series?

- (1) □P8 (2) □Q9 (3) ⊕Q9 (4) ∪P8
(5) None of these

15. If all the numbers in the series were added together, the total would be divisible by:

- (1) 3 and 7 (2) 3 and 9 (3) 3 and 4
(4) 4 and 8 (5) 7 and 9

Qs. 16 and 17 are based on the statements given below:

⊕ means, 'is heavier than' ∇ means, 'is lighter than'.
●● means, 'is equal to'. ⊗ means, 'is not equal to'.

16. AB ⊕ CD, A ●● D and C ∇ B, therefore

- (1) A ●● C (2) CD ∇ AB (3) D ⊕ B
(4) C ●● D (5) None of these

17. AB ●● CD and D ⊕ B therefore

- (1) A ●● C (2) C ∇ B (3) A ⊕ C (4) C ⊕ A
(5) None of these

Qs. 18-20 are based on the letters in the word **PERFORMANCE**.

18. How many sets of two letters have as many letters between them as they have in the alphabetical order?

- (1) 1 (2) 2 (3) 3 (4) 4 (5) None

If the first four letters of the word were written in reverse order, then the next three letters were written in reverse order followed by the last four letters in reverse order:

19. Which letters would be to the left and right of O?

- (1) F and E (2) F and A (3) M and R
(4) R and E (5) None of these

20. How many letters would be there between P and C?

- (1) 4 (2) 6 (3) 7 (4) 8 (5) None of these

Qs. 21-25. In each question below is given a pair of words, the two words having a definite relationship between them. Your task is to find out from the given options the word, that would form the same relationship with the third word.

21. ear : music :: tongue : ?

- (1) speech (2) food (3) taste (4) saliva (5) eat

22. oxygen : hydrogen :: Mars : ?

- (1) planet (2) sun (3) solar system (4) Jupiter (5) Moon

23. Monday : Wednesday :: spring : ?

- (1) summer (2) flowers (3) winters
(4) rains (5) blooming

24. torch : darkness :: medicine : ?

- (1) ailment (2) patient (3) treatment
(4) prescription (5) cure

25. black : colour :: gold : ?

- (1) currency (2) riches (3) metal
(4) ornaments (5) exchange

NON-VERBAL SERIES

Given below are two sets of figures, the Problem Figures and the Answer Figures marked A, B, C, D and E. Your task is to find out which of the Answer Figures from A, B, C, D and E would come next in the series of Problem Figures.

PROBLEM FIGURES

ANSWER FIGURES

	PROBLEM FIGURES					ANSWER FIGURES					
						A	B	C	D	E	
26.											
27.											
28.											
29.											
30.											
31.											
32.											
33.											
34.											
35.											
36.											
37.											
38.											

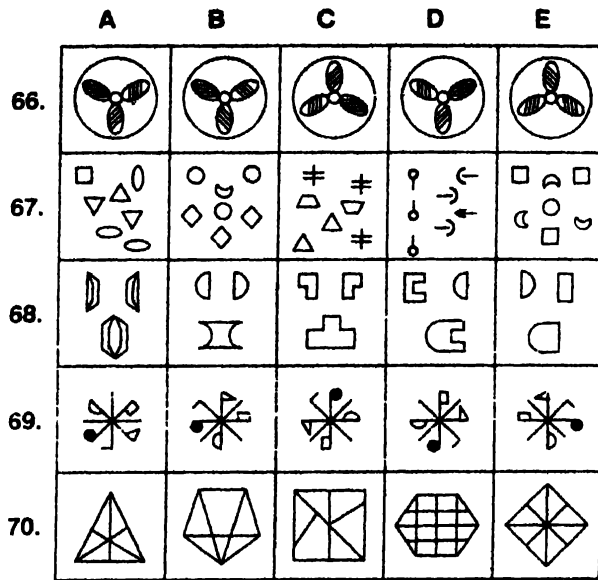
					A	B	C	D	E
39.									
40.									
41.									
42.									
43.									
44.									
45.									
46.									
47.									
48.									
49.									
50.									
51.									
52.									

		A	B	C	D	E
53.						
54.						
55.						

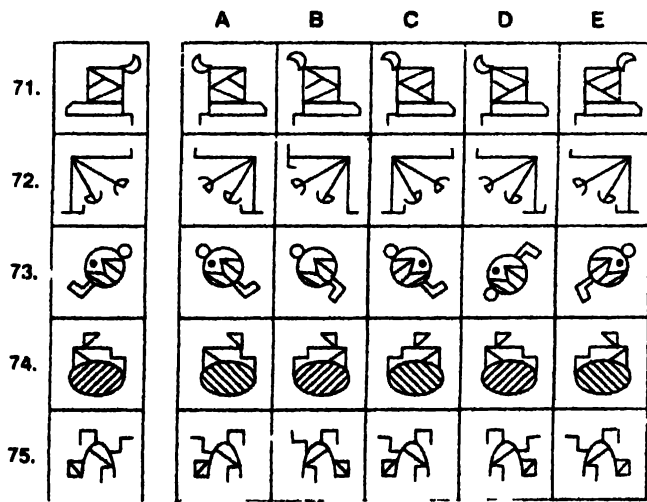
Each of the following questions has four pairs of figures namely A, B, C and D. Three out of these four have a similar relationship. Your task is to find out the one that is different from the others.

	A	B	C	D
56.				
57.				
58.				
59.				
60.				
61.				
62.				
63.				
64.				
65.				

Find the odd-man out:



Each of the following questions has a figure. You have to find out from the answer figures A, B, C, D and E, the mirror-image of the figure given in question.



ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- (3) First letters of the series have a gap of one, A, C, E ..., second a gap of two and third one are PQRST.
- (2) First letters are from the regular alphabetic order, second are in reverse order and the third have a gap of one.
- (4) Gap increases by one letter and the next set follows after the gap of one letter.
- (2) Number all the letters from A to Z, i.e. 1 to 26. The total of numbers allotted to the letters are there in each series.
- (1) Add the numbers of first two letters and deduct the number of third letter from it, e.g. BC-1F is $2 + 3 - 6 = -1$.
- (2) In other words, all the letters are from the key word. This one has an extra 'V'.

- (5) In all the others, the order of letters, picked up for forming the word does not change. Here the letters have been shuffled.
- (5) In all the others, one letter is an outsider, this one has two, 'A' and an extra 'R'.
- (3) 10. (3) 9 and 12 11. (2) 12 (2)
- (4) 14. (1) 15. (3) It is 60
- (2) 17 (3) 18 (3) PR, OM, AC
- (4) 20. (1)
- (3) One distinguishes the other.
- (4) Both are members of the same group.
- (1) Just as there is Tuesday between the two, these have summers.
- (1) One gets rid of the other.
- (3) One is one of the members of the other.

For solving questions 26-55, the following guidelines might prove helpful

(i) Study every figure in each question as a separate identity as well as in relationship with other figures.

(ii) The figures may move right and left, up and down, corner to corner, clockwise, anti-clockwise or along certain points. During this movement, the figure may rotate, swing or turn upside down. It may change its size also as you can see in question number 27.

(iii) All the figures need not move at the same pace or in the same direction. Some may gain a step with each movement while some may move in three steps or one and its double pace. (Examples: 32, 38, 43 etc.)

(iv) Something may be added or dropped in next box. (Examples: 28, 29, 33, 41, 47 etc.)

(v) Figures may interchange places amongst themselves. Some may be replaced by other figures. (Examples: 30, 45, 50 etc.)

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. C | 27. A | 28. A | 29. E |
| 30. B | 31. C | 32. C | 33. A |
| 34. B | 35. D | 36. A | 37. D |
| 38. A | 39. B | 40. A | 41. B |
| 42. A | 43. D | 44. C | 45. A |
| 46. E | 47. B | 48. B | 49. E |
| 50. A | 51. A | 52. C | 53. B |
| 54. E | 55. B | | |

- C. The figures ought to be reversed.
- B. The position of block is wrong.
- D. The direction is wrong.
- D
- B. The arrangement is wrong.
- A. The figure in the next block ought to have two sides more. This one has one only.
- C. Only one set of figures turns upside down. Here both the sets have turned upside down.
- C. The pattern in the angles of triangle is wrong.
- D. The letters D and E are wrong.
- A. The number of lines should match with the number of lines in figures.

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 66. D | 67. C | 68. D | 69. B | 70. B |
| 71. A | 72. E | 73. C | 74. E | 75. E |

Test of Reasoning - 2

Qs. 1-6. In each of the following questions, a series of numbers is given. Below this series is given a number followed by (A), (B), (C), (D) and (E). After understanding the pattern in the given number series, you have to form another number series in the same order, starting from the given number:

1. 2 2 4 12 48
3 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (D)?

- (1) 64 (2) 102 (3) 114
(4) 72 (5) None of these
2. 53 59 61 67 71
31 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers would come at the place of (C)?

- (1) 47 (2) 39 (3) 43
(4) 49 (5) None of these
3. 6 7 16 51 208
3 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers would come at the place of (E)?

- (1) 496 (2) 515 (3) 587
(4) 685 (5) None of these
4. 1 4 8 9 27
27 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers would come at the place of (B)?

- (1) 64 (2) 32 (3) 48
(4) 51 (5) None of these
5. 140 104 79 63 54
171 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (C)?

- (1) 109 (2) 94 (3) 91
(4) 83 (5) None of these
6. 13 24 46 90 178
7 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (D)?

- (1) 94 (2) 82 (3) 78
(4) 96 (5) None of these

Qs. 7-10. Find the odd-man out:

7. (1) ankle (2) thigh (3) wrist
(4) elbow (5) knee
8. (1) croak (2) cackle (3) twitter
(4) squeak (5) squawk
9. (1) ream (2) fathom (3) watt

- (4) calorie (5) microbe

10. (1) Marconi (2) Darwin (3) Einstein
(4) Marco Polo (5) Graham Bell

11. In a room, there are some tripods and some stools. There are some men, women and children too. All the women are seated on tripods and all the men on stools while the children are standing. The number of human beings is 12 more than the pieces of furniture. The number of legs (stools + tripods + men, women and children) is 133. Find out the number of stools in the room.

- (1) 11 (2) 10 (3) 9 (4) 12 (5) Can't say

Directions: In each of the questions 12 to 16, a question is asked followed by three statements A, B and C. Read the question and the three statements and then decide whether the question can be answered with any one or two of the statements or all the three are required. The answer number bearing the statements which are required to answer the question is your answer.

12. How far is A's office from his home?

A. It takes him 45 minutes in the morning to drive from home to office.

B. In the evening it takes him an hour to come home due to heavy traffic

C. A drives at a uniform speed of 50 kph in morning

- (1) Only A and B (2) Only B and C
(3) Only A and C (4) Only C
(5) All the three

13. Who is A's grandfather?

A. B is A's father's sister.

B. C is B's sister

C. D is C's father.

- (1) Only A and B (2) Only B and C
(3) Only A and C (4) Data is inadequate
(5) All the three

14. How much D.A. does Satish get per month?

A. Satish's basic pay is Rs 6000 per month.

B. He gets D.A., H.R.A. and city allowance too.

C. His total income is Rs 14800 per month.

- (1) Only A and B (2) Only B and C
(3) Only A and C (4) Data is inadequate
(5) All the three

15. How many houses have been constructed by the City Development Authority in the new colony?

A. The authority planned to build 5500 houses in the new colony.

B. 2500 houses are already occupied by owners.

C. Only 15% houses are unfinished.

- (1) Only A and B (2) Only B and C
(3) Only A and C (4) Either A or C
(5) Data is inadequate

16. How much money did X invest in his joint business with Y?

- A. The total profit after a year was Rs 3,50,000
B. In this amount, Y's share was Rs 1,50,000.
C. X and Y calculated that they had got 30% profit on their investment.
(1) Only A and B (2) Only B and C
(3) Only A and C (4) None
(5) All the three

17. The sum of three even numbers is four times of the first number. Which is the last of these three numbers?

- (1) 12 (2) 8 (3) 10
(4) 6 (5) Data is inadequate

Qs. 18-20. Study the following information and answer the questions that follow:

Five young ladies, Jyoti, Kamini, Laxmi, Madhu and Neha have five different jobs of architect, engineer, fashion designer, beautician and receptionist and are living in five different cities. These cities are Indore, Agra, Bhopal, Bangalore and Lucknow.

Laxmi and Madhu do not live in Indore and are not beautician or fashion designer.

Kamini and Madhu are not architects nor do they live in Bangalore or Lucknow.

The fashion designer stays in Lucknow and the receptionist at Agra.

Neha is not receptionist or beautician nor she stays in Lucknow.

Jyoti and Neha do not stay in Bhopal and Bangalore and are not architects.

18. Who is the receptionist?

- (1) Jyoti (2) Kamini (3) Laxmi
(4) Madhu (5) Neha

19. The architect has her job in:

- (1) Bangalore (2) Agra (3) Bhopal
(4) Lucknow (5) Indore

20. What is Kamini?

- (1) receptionist (2) beautician (3) engineer
(4) architect (5) fashion designer

21. Who is the engineer?

- (1) Jyoti (2) Kamini (3) Laxmi
(4) Madhu (5) Neha

22. Which of the following combination is wrong?

- (1) Jyoti—Lucknow (2) Architect—Bangalore
(3) Laxmi—Receptionist (4) Neha—Indore
(5) Beautician—Bhopal

Qs. 23-25. In each of the following questions, four of the five parts numbered (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) have the same value. You have to find out the equation which has a different value. The number of that equation is your answer.

23. (1) $16.25 \times 120 - 1612$
(2) $936 \div 12 \times 4 + 26$

(3) $576 - 494 + 256$

(4) $6 \times 16 \times 8 - 42$

(5) $48 \times 4.5 + 61 \times 2$

24. (1) $(2a + b)^2 - 3ab$

(2) $3a^2 + (a + b)^2 - ab$

(3) $4(ab + a^2) - 3ab + b^2$

(4) $ab + 4(a + b)^2 - 8ab - 3b^2$

(5) $a^2 + b^2 + 3(a - b) - 5ab$

25. (1) $(\sqrt{105 + 64} \times 5 + 103) \div 4$

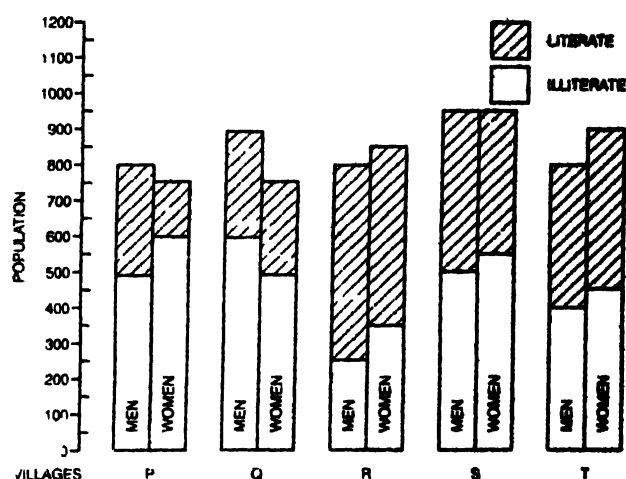
(2) $4 \times (8\frac{1}{2} + 9\frac{1}{4} + 6\frac{1}{4}) - 54$

(3) $15 \times 3 - 16 + 108 \div 6$

(4) $\sqrt{361 \times 4} + 4$

(5) $438 \div 3 - 26 \times 4$

Qs. 26-30. Directions: Given below is the diagram based on the statistics collected from five villages P, Q, R, S and T by the Department of Adult Education. The bars show literacy rate among men and women of these five villages. Study the diagram and answer the questions that follow.



26. What approximately is the percentage of literacy among the women of these five villages?

- (1) 42.1% (2) 39.3% (3) 40.9%
(4) 37.2% (5) None of these

27. Which village has the highest literacy and what approximately is the percentage of literacy in that village?

- (1) 63.2%—R (2) 53.9%—S (3) 68.1%—R
(4) 57.6%—R (5) Data inadequate

28. The total literacy rate among the men of the five villages is approximately how much more than that of women?

- (1) 7.3% (2) 9.6% (3) 5.8% (4) 6.1% (5) 8.3%

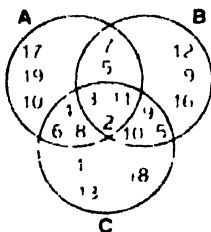
29. Which village has equal number of literate men and women?

- (1) P (2) Q (3) R (4) S (5) T

30. How many more men and women should be included in adult education programme from village T to bring the percentage of literate persons in that village equal to the percentage of literate persons in village T?

- (1) 275 (2) 290 (3) 340 (4) 325
(5) None of these

Directions: Study the following diagram carefully and answer questions 31 to 34 given below it:



31. What is the ratio in numbers inclusive in set A and B only, B and C only and A and C only?

- (1) 3 : 5 : 4 (2) 2 : 5 : 3 (3) 2 : 4 : 3
(4) 4 : 7 : 5 (5) None of these

32. Total of numbers exclusive in A is how much more than total of numbers exclusive in B?

- (1) 8 (2) 11 (3) 10
(4) 9 (5) None of these

33. Total of numbers exclusive in A, B and C is how much more than the total of numbers inclusive in the set ABC?

- (1) 87 (2) 99 (3) 101
(4) 92 (5) None of these

34. Total of numbers inclusive in sets of two only is how much less than the total of numbers exclusive in sets of one?

- (1) 51 (2) 61 (3) 57
(4) 63 (5) None of these

Qs. 35-40. Each question below has a word along with its code, each capital letter in the word being coded by a small letter. Your task is to find out the right code for the letters given in boxes.

35. B A **[N]** D I T
(1) g (2) u (3) z (4) x (5) y (6) k
36. D E A R T **[H]**
(1) s (2) m (3) k (4) y (5) w (6) g
37. **[P]** O N D E R
(1) j (2) k (3) w (4) x (5) q (6) s
38. T R I P **[L]** E
(1) z (2) q (3) c (4) w (5) s (6) y
39. D **[E]** N T A L
(1) x (2) s (3) g (4) k (5) c (6) y
40. N A P **[K]** I N
(1) f (2) x (3) x (4) z (5) g (6) q

SYLLOGISMS

In each question below are given two statements followed by four conclusions numbered I, II, III and IV. You have to take the two given statements to be true even if they seem at variance with commonly known facts. Read all the conclusions and then decide which of them logically follow from the statements, disregarding commonly known facts.

Statements:

41. 1. Some machines are tools.
2. Some machines are chimneys.

Conclusions:

- I. Every machine is either tool or chimney.
II. Some machines are neither tool nor chimney.
III. Some machines are tools as well as chimneys.
IV. The machines that are tools are not chimneys.
(1) Only I and III follow.
(2) Either I, II or III, IV follow.
(3) Only I/III and I/IV follow.
(4) Only II/III and I/IV follow.
(5) Only I/II and III/IV follow.

Statements:

42. 1. All crows are eagles.
2. All eagles are pea-cocks.

Conclusions:

- I. All crows are pea-cocks.
II. Some pea-cocks are eagles.
III. All eagles are crows.
IV. All pea-cocks are eagles.
(1) Either I or II follows.
(2) Either III or IV follows.
(3) Only I and II follow.
(4) Only II and III follow.
(5) All the four follow.

Statement:

43. 1. Some rivers are lakes.
2. All lakes are canals.

Conclusions:

- I. Some rivers are canals.
II. Some lakes are not rivers.
III. All canals are lakes.
IV. Some canals are not rivers.
(1) Only I follows.
(2) Only II follows.
(3) Only III follows.
(4) Only IV follows.
(5) None follows.

Statements:

44. 1. Some homes are restaurants.
2. Some palaces are restaurants.

Conclusions:

- I. Some homes are palaces.
II. Every restaurant is either a home or a palace.
III. Some palaces are not restaurants.
IV. Some homes are not restaurants.
(1) Only I and II follow.
(2) Only II and III follow.
(3) Only III and IV follow.
(4) Either II or III follows.
(5) Either III or IV follows.

Statements:

45. 1. All scissors are knives.
2. Some knives are blades.

Conclusions:

- I. All knives are scissors.
- II. Some scissors are blades.
- III. Some blades are not knives.
- IV. No scissor is a blade.
- (1) Only I and II follow.
- (2) Only II and III follow.
- (3) Only III and IV follow.
- (4) Either II or IV follows.
- (5) Either I or III follows.

Statements:

- 46. 1. Some clouds are black while some are white.
- 2. All black and only black things appear red in sun-light.

Conclusions:

- I. White clouds do not change colour.
- II. In sun-light, black clouds appear red.
- III. When there is no sun-light, some clouds appear black.
- IV. Some clouds are neither black nor white.
- (1) Only I and II follow.
- (2) Only I, II and III follow.
- (3) Only III and IV follow.
- (4) Only II, III and IV follow.
- (5) All the four follow.

Statements:

- 47. 1. Some dollars are rupees.
- 2. Some rupees are pounds.

Conclusions:

- I. Some dollars are pounds.
- II. Some pounds are not rupees.
- III. Some rupees are not dollars.
- IV. No pound is a dollar.
- (1) Either I or II follows.
- (2) Either I or III follows.
- (3) Either I or IV follows.
- (4) Either II or IV follows.
- (5) Only IV follows.

Statements:

- 48. 1. AC are heavier than BC.
- 2. BD are lighter than BC

Conclusions:

- I. B is not as heavy as A is.
- II. D is lighter than C.
- III. AC is heavier than BD.
- IV. C is heavier than D.
- (1) Only I and II follow.
- (2) Only III and IV follow.
- (3) Only I and III follow.
- (4) All the four follow.
- (5) None follows.

In each question below is given a statement followed by three assumptions, numbered I, II and III. An assumption is something supposed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the assumptions and then decide which of the assumption is

implicit in the statement. Then decide which of the answers is correct.
Statement:

49. No one goes in the old fort after dark as it is supposed to be haunted.

Assumptions:

- I. People are generally scared of ghosts.
- II. Ghosts have no power in the broad day-light.
- III. Some anti-social elements have spread this rumour.
- (1) Only I is implicit.
- (2) Only I and II are implicit.
- (3) Either II or III is implicit.
- (4) All are implicit.
- (5) None is implicit.

Statement:

50. The generation of power at the power houses connected with a hydel project on river 'X' has been reduced.

Assumptions:

- I. The amount of power generated was much more than the actual requirement.
- II. There is shortage of water in the river 'X'.
- III. The plant is old hence it cannot generate that much power.
- (1) Only I is implicit.
- (2) Only II is implicit.
- (3) Only III is implicit.
- (4) All are implicit.
- (5) None is implicit.

Statement:

51. Although new land is being provided to the families living in an area where a dam is to be constructed under rehabilitation programme, the families are not prepared to go there.

Assumptions:

- I. The new land that is being given to them is not so fertile as their old land.
- II. The families have strong sentimental ties with their land.
- III. They see a chance of squeezing out as much as they can from the authorities in the name of rehabilitation programme.
- (1) Either I or II is implicit.
- (2) Either II or III is implicit.
- (3) Either I or III is implicit.
- (4) All the three are implicit.
- (5) Only any one of the three is implicit.

Statement:

52. The leader of party X, Mr Y, has withdrawn his support to the government.

Assumptions:

- I. Mr Y proposes to give his support to some other party.
- II. Mr Y is not much happy with the policies of the government.
- III. The government did not appoint Mr Y and other members of party X as per their expectation.

- (1) Only I and II are implicit.
- (2) Only II is implicit.
- (3) Only III is implicit.
- (4) Either II or III or both are implicit
- (5) All are implicit.

In each question below is given an assertion A followed by two reasons numbered RI and RII. Apply the reasons to the assertion and mark your answers as follows

- (1) Only RI and not RII is the reason for A.
- (2) Only RII and not RI is the reason for A
- (3) Both RI and RII are the reasons for A.
- (4) Either RI or RII is the reason for A
- (5) Neither RI nor RII is the reason for A.

53. A. The President dissolved the 12th Lok Sabha but asked the same persons to continue as a caretaker government.

RI. New government cannot be formed immediately

RII. The country cannot run without a government

- (1) ☐ (2) ☐ (3) ☐ (4) ☐ (5) ☐

54. A. Forecasts published in various magazines often vary

RI. Different astronomers have their own way of making predictions.

RII. Astronomy and astrology are not based on any reasons

- (1) ☐ (2) ☐ (3) ☐ (4) ☐ (5) ☐

55. A. People all over the world are just going crazy to reach the spot where they could hail the rising sun of the millennium.

RI. The sun rises in special glory on the New Year

RII. Entering from 20th to 21st century is quite an exciting event in itself.

- (1) ☐ (2) ☐ (3) ☐ (4) ☐ (5) ☐

56. A. The environmentalists are very much against the use of polythene bags

RI. When thrown around these bags block drainages and outlets.

RII. Polythene harms land as it never gets dissolved

- (1) ☐ (2) ☐ (3) ☐ (4) ☐ (5) ☐

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (4) The series is $2 \times 1 = 2$; $2 \times 2 = 4$; $4 \times 3 = 12$ Hence the new one would be $3 \times 1 = 3$; $3 \times 2 = 6$; $6 \times 3 = 18$; $18 \times 4 = 72$...
2. (3) These are the series of prime numbers, hence, 31, 37, 41, 43, 47, 53
3. (4) The series is $6 \times 1 + 1$; $7 \times 2 + 2$; $16 \times 3 + 3$, hence the next one would be, $3 \times 1 + 1$; $4 \times 2 + 2$; $10 \times 3 + 3$; $33 \times 4 + 4$; $136 \times 5 + 5 = 685$.
4. (1) The series is 1^3 ; 2^3 ; 3^3 ; 3^3 ; 3^3 ..., hence 3^3 ; 4^3 ; 5^3 ; 5^3 ; 6^3 ...
5. (2) Go on deducting 6^2 , 5^2 , 4^2 , 3^2 from numbers.
6. (2) The numbers are $\times 2 - 2$ of the preceding number.
7. (2) All the others are joints.
8. (1) All the others are associated with bird, this one is the sound made by a frog.

9. (5) All the others are units of measurement.

10. (4) He is the only traveller among scientists.

11. (3) 11 tripods, 9 stools, 11 women, 9 men and 12 children, hence $33 + 22 + 36 + 18 + 24 = 133$ legs.

12. (3) 13. (5) 14. (4) 15. (3) 16. (5)

17. (3) The numbers being 4, 6 and 8.

For answering the next type of questions, make a chart

Names	Indore	Agra	Bhopal	Bangl	Luck	Archi	Engun	Fashion	beaut	recept
J										
K										
L	x							x	x	
M	x							x	x	
N										

18. (4) 19. (1) 20. (2) 21. (5) 22. (3)

23. (4) 24. (5) 25. (3) 26. (2) 27. (4)

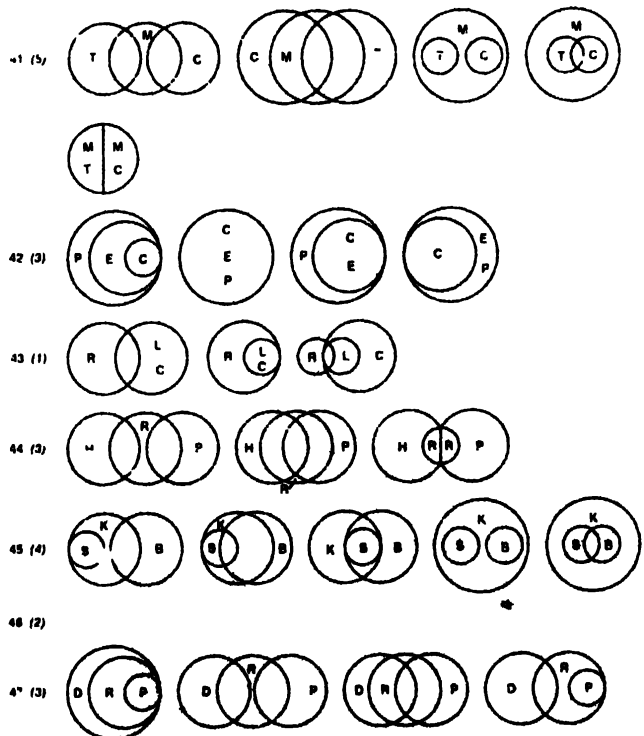
28. (1) 29. (2) 30. (4) 31. (3) 32. (4)

33. (2) 34. (2)

For answering the next type of questions, sort out common letters in words and match them with common code letters

35. (4) 36. (2) 37. (5) 38. (3) 39. (3) 40. (1)

The best way to solve the next type of questions is by drawing diagrams of all the probable situations and then reach the fool-proof conclusion. Here are a few examples. Let each element be represented by a circle



48. (4) 49. (2) 50. (2) 51. (5) 52. (4)

53. (3) 54. (1) 55. (2) 56. (3)

Quantitative Aptitude

West Bengal Public Service Commission
Miscellaneous Services Exam held on May 24, 1998

We are grateful to Mr Naushad Hussain of Calcutta for sending this question paper to us

1. The sum of numerator and denominator of a fraction is 55 and its value is $\frac{3}{8}$. The fraction is:

- (a) $\frac{12}{32}$ (b) $\frac{10}{45}$ (c) $\frac{20}{35}$ (d) None of these

2. A man receives an annual salary of Rs 8800 in the year 1997. This is 10% more than his salary in 1996. His salary (in rupees) in 1996 was:

- (a) 7000 (b) 7800 (c) 8000 (d) 8400

3. A florist bought 360 roses at Rs 8 per dozen. He sold all of them at Re 1 each. He made a profit of (in rupees):

- (a) 240 (b) 315 (c) 120 (d) 180

4. A can do a piece of work in 15 days, B can do it in 20 days. They work together for 4 days and then B goes away. A will finish the remaining work in:

- (a) 8 days (b) 11 days
(c) 10 days (d) None of the above

5. The perimeter of a square park is 440 m. A path of 2 m wide runs around inside the park. The area of the path (in sq metres) is:

- (a) 864 (b) 896 (c) 444 (d) 436

6. $\frac{1}{4}$ th of a rod is yellow, $\frac{1}{8}$ th is red, $\frac{1}{12}$ th is green, $\frac{1}{16}$ th is blue and the remaining 138 cm is black. The length of the rod is (in cms).

- (a) 96 (b) 192 (c) 288 (d) 384

7. In a certain examination there are three papers and it is necessary for a candidate to get 36% of the total marks to pass. In one paper a candidate obtained 62 out of 120, and in the second paper he obtained 35 out of 150. To just qualify for pass he must obtain out of 180 in the third paper:

- (a) 35 (b) 45 (c) 55 (d) 65

8. A book-seller allows a discount of 10% on the advertised price of a book. A book costs Rs 600 and he wants to make a profit of 20%. He must mark the price of the book as:

- (a) Rs 700 (b) Rs 800 (c) Rs 660 (d) Rs 720

9. A supply of corn lasts 15 days for 20 horses. It will last for 30 horses for (in days):

- (a) 8 (b) $22\frac{1}{2}$ (c) 10 (d) 12

10. A pot full of water weighs 9.5 kg. When half-filled with water the pot weighs 5.5 kg. The weight of the empty pot is (in kg):

- (a) 4 (b) 1.5 (c) 2 (d) 3.5

11. Sum of a number and its reciprocal is 2. Their difference is:

- (a) 1 (b) $\frac{1}{2}$ (c) $\frac{3}{2}$ (d) 0

12. A number is increased by 20% and then again increased by 20%. The original number is increased by (in per cent):

- (a) 20 (b) 30 (c) 40 (d) 44

13. A shopkeeper bought pens at the rate of 12 pens for Rs 150 and sold them at the rate of 10 pens for Rs 130. The number of pens he should sell to earn a net profit of Rs 20 is:

- (a) 10 (b) 20 (c) 30 (d) 40

14. A train passes a platform 90 metres long in 30 seconds and a man standing on the platform in 15 seconds. The speed of the train is (in m/sec):

- (a) 3 (b) 6 (c) 2 (d) 5

15. The ratio of two positive numbers is 3 : 4 and the difference of their squares is 112. The sum of the numbers is:

- (a) 26 (b) 28 (c) 42 (d) 16

16. The difference of the greatest and the least among the numbers 1.5 , $\frac{2}{5}$, $\frac{1}{5}$, 0.7 is:

- (a) 1.3 (b) 0.8 (c) $\frac{1}{5}$ (d) 0.4

17. In an examination, 40% students fail in Mathematics and 30% fail in English and 20% in both. The pass per cent is:

- (a) 10 (b) 30 (c) 40 (d) 50

18. A sum of money amounts to Rs 1180 and Rs 1300 in 3 years and 5 years respectively at simple interest per annum. The sum is:

- (a) Rs 900 (b) Rs 950 (c) Rs 1000 (d) Rs 1050

19. The sum of the present ages of father and son is 56 years. 7 years after, the ratio of their ages will be 5 : 2. The present age of the son is (in years):

- (a) 20 (b) 13 (c) 16 (d) 23

20. Five numbers are arranged in order. The average of the first four numbers is 26 and the average of the last four numbers is 23. The difference of the first and the last number is:

- (a) 3 (b) 15 (c) 12 (d) 10

21. The simplified value of

$$1.79 \times 1.79 + 2.42 \times 1.79 + 1.21 \times 1.21 \text{ is:}$$

- (a) 0.58 (b) 9 (c) 3 (d) 4

22. If $12 * 4$ be divisible by 9, the missing digit (*) will be.

- (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4

23. A trader allows two successive discounts of 15% and 10%. He gets Rs 107.10 for an article. The marked price of the

article is (in rupees):

- (a) 140 (b) 150 (c) 160 (d) 132.10

24. 20 men working 8 hours per day can complete a piece of work in 21 days. The number of hours per day must 48 men work to complete the same job in 7 days is:

- (a) 10 hrs (b) 8 hrs (c) 12 hrs (d) 6 hrs

25. A number is 3 times of another number and their product is 1323. The larger number is:

- (a) 21 (b) 441 (c) 63 (d) 51

26. The value of $\frac{9}{12} \text{ of } 3\frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{5}(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3})$ of $\frac{\text{Rs } 11.55}{\text{Rs } 61.60}$ is:

- (a) 8 (b) 12 (c) 9 (d) 2

27. A number of boys raised Rs 180.50 by subscription among themselves, each boy subscribing as many 25 p pieces at twice the number of boys. The number of boys is:

- (a) 21 (b) 17 (c) 19 (d) 23

28. Of the four numbers p, q, r, s, the ratio of the first number to the second is 2 : 3, that of the second to the third is 5 : 6, and that of the third to the fourth is 8 : 9. The continued ratio of the four numbers is:

- (a) 40 : 60 : 72 : 81 (b) 4 : 6 : 7 : 8
(c) 1 : 2 : 3 : 4 (d) 42 : 65 : 70 : 91

29. A fort has provisions for 420 soldiers for 70 days. After 10 days 210 more soldiers enter the fort. The remaining food will last for:

- (a) 30 days (b) 25 days (c) 35 days (d) 40 days

30. Two pipes can fill a cistern in 20 and 30 minutes respectively. Both the pipes being opened, when the cistern is empty. The time when the first pipe must be turned off so that the cistern may be filled in 18 minutes, in all is:

- (a) after 10 min (b) after 6 min
(c) after 8 min (d) after 12 min

31. The time taken to travel from one place to another at the rate of 3 km/hr is 1 hour less than that taken to travel the same distance at the rate of 2.5 km/hr. The distance between the places is:

- (a) 14 km (b) 16 km (c) 15 km (d) 20 km

32. 20 men working 8 hrs a day can complete a work in 18 days. Then 16 men working 9 hrs a day can complete it in:

- (a) 20 days (b) 60 days (c) 12 days (d) 16 days

33. The population of a town was 2,00,000. If the number of males increased by 10% and the number of females decreased by 6%, the total population would have remained unchanged. The number of males is:

- (a) 80,000 (b) 72,000 (c) 75,000 (d) 90,000

34. If oranges be bought at the rate of 20 for a rupee, the number of oranges which must be sold for a rupee to gain 25% is:

- (a) 20 (b) 22 (c) 18 (d) 16

35. A person had deposited Rs 2500 in a bank on 1st January and withdrew Rs 1000 from the bank at the end of 9 months. If the rate of interest is 4% p.a., then the total interest payable to him at the end of the year is:

- (a) Rs 80 (b) Rs 84 (c) Rs 105 (d) Rs 90

36. A certain sum is invested at simple interest p.a. It amounts to Rs 520 and Rs 568 after 5 and 7 years respectively. The original sum is:

- (a) Rs 400 (b) Rs 350 (c) Rs 360 (d) Rs 380

37. A vessel has 2 pipes attached to it, one to supply and one to draw off. The supply-pipe can fill the vessel in 40 minutes, and the waste-pipe can empty it in an hour. The supply-pipe and the waste-pipe are kept open in alternate minutes; the time in which the vessel will be filled is:

- (a) 3 hr 55 min (b) 4 hr
(c) 3 hr 50 min (d) 3 hr 45 min

38. If $A = \frac{4}{5}$ of B, and $B = 2\frac{1}{2}$ of C, the ratio of A to C is:

- (a) 2 : 1 (b) 3 : 1 (c) 3 : 2 (d) 4 : 3

39. A man, after paying an income-tax of 6 p in the rupee, has Rs 4,794 left; his gross income is:

- (a) Rs 5200 (b) Rs 5100 (c) Rs 4800 (d) Rs 5000

40. Two-fifth of the square of a number is 2.5; the number is:

- (a) 2.5 (b) 3.5 (c) 4.5 (d) 1.5

41. A man swimming in a stream which flows 1.5 km per hour finds that in a given time he can swim twice as far with the stream as he can against it. The rate at which he swims is:

- (a) 4.5 km per hour (b) 4 km per hour
(c) 3 km per hour (d) 3.5 km per hour

42. In a kilometre race A gives B a start of 30 metres, and beats him by 20 metres. If A runs the kilometre in 5 minutes, the time that B will take to run the same distance is:

- (a) $5\frac{5}{19}$ min (b) $5\frac{5}{17}$ min
(c) $5\frac{5}{13}$ min (d) $5\frac{5}{18}$ min

43. When flour is Rs 40 a quintal, 16 men can be fed for 5 days at a cost of Rs 32; the time for which 12 men can be fed at a cost of Rs 42, when flour is Rs 35 a quintal is:

- (a) 12 days (b) 8 days (c) 9 days (d) 10 days

44. Rs 873 is divided among A, B, C, so that their shares are in the proportion of 2, 3 and 4. A's share is:

- (a) Rs 194 (b) Rs 291 (c) Rs 388 (d) Rs 210

45. 42 litres of adulterated milk contain milk and water in the ratio 4 : 3. The amount of water which must be added to it in order that the resulting mixture may contain milk and water in the ratio 4 : 5 is:

- (a) 15 litres (b) 10 litres (c) 12 litres (d) 8 litres

46. A shop-keeper sells onions at Rs 24, Rs 30 and Rs 42 a kilogram, selling the different kinds in quantities proportional to 1 : 1 : 3. If the total quantity sold be 60 kg, the average price obtained for each kg is:

- (a) Rs 36 (b) Rs 38 (c) Rs 30 (d) Rs 32

47. A piece of cloth is sold for Rs. 85.80 at a profit of 30%. If it had been sold at Rs 7.50 per metre, the profit would have been Rs 16.50. The length of the piece is:

- (a) 11 metres (b) 9 metres (c) 12 metres (d) 10 metres

48. The product of two numbers is 123904 and double of one of them is 1408. The other number is:
 (a) 176 (b) 286 (c) 156 (d) 166
49. If the cost of 9 kg be Rs 99450, the cost of a gram is:
 (a) Rs 12.05 (b) Rs 11.05 (c) Rs 9.05 (d) Rs 10.05
50. $\frac{0.704 \times 0.704 - 0.296 \times 0.296}{0.704 - 0.296}$ when simplified is:
 (a) 2 (b) 1 (c) 1.2 (d) 2.1

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (d) $\frac{x}{55-x} = \frac{3}{8} \Rightarrow x = 15$ Fraction = $\frac{15}{55-15} = \frac{15}{40}$
2. (c) $110\% \text{ of } x = 8800 \Rightarrow x = \text{Rs } 8000$ ($x = \text{salary in } 1996$)
3. (c) $P = S.P. - C.P. = 360 - 360 \times \frac{8}{12} = \text{Rs } 120$.
4. (a) $(A + B)'s \text{ 4 days' work} = (\frac{1}{15} + \frac{1}{20}) \times 4 = \frac{7}{15}$
 Remaining work = $\frac{8}{15}$
 $\therefore A \text{ will finish the remaining work in } 15 \times \frac{8}{15} = 8 \text{ days}$
5. (b) Side of a square park = $\frac{440}{4} = 110 \text{ m}$
 Side of outer square = $110 + 2 \times 2 = 114 \text{ m}$
 Area of path = $114^2 - 110^2 = 896 \text{ m}^2$
6. (c) $x - (\frac{x}{4} + \frac{x}{8} + \frac{x}{12} + \frac{x}{16}) = 138 \Rightarrow x = 288 \text{ cm}$.
7. (d) $62 + 35 + x = \frac{36}{100}(120 + 150 + 180) \Rightarrow x = 65$
8. (b) $S.P. = 600 \times \frac{120}{100} = \text{Rs } 720$
 Let M.P. = Rs $x \therefore \frac{90}{100} \times x = 720 \Rightarrow x = 800$
9. (c) It is a case of inverse variation
 $20 : 30 = x : 15 \Rightarrow x = \frac{20 \times 15}{30} = 10$
10. (b) Let the weight of empty pot be $x \text{ kg}$.
 $\therefore x + y = 9.5 \dots(i)$
 $x + y/2 = 5.5 \dots(ii)$
 Solving (i) and (ii), $x = 1.5 \text{ kg}$
11. (d) $x + \frac{1}{x} = 2$
 $x - \frac{1}{x} = \sqrt{(x + \frac{1}{x})^2 - 4} = \sqrt{2^2 - 4} = \sqrt{0} = 0$
12. (d) % increase = $\frac{(x \times \frac{120}{100}) \times \frac{120}{100} - x}{x} \times 100 = 44\%$

13. (d) Profit on 1 pen = $\frac{130}{10} - \frac{150}{12} = \text{Re } \frac{1}{2}$
 If profit is Rs 20, no. of pens should be sold
 $= 20 \times \frac{2}{1} = 40$

14. (b) Let speed of the train be $x \text{ m}$
 $\therefore \text{Length of train} = x \times 15 = 15x \text{ m}$

A.T.S. $\frac{90 + 15x}{x} = 30 \Rightarrow x = 6 \text{ m/sec}$.

15. (b) $(4x)^2 - (3x)^2 = 112 \Rightarrow x = 4$
 Their sum = $7x = 7 \times 4 = 28$

16. (a) $\frac{2}{5} = .4, \frac{1}{5} = .2$ Diff = $1.5 - .2 = 1.3$

17. (d) Pass% = $[100 - (40 + 30 - 20)]\% = 50\%$

18. (c) $P + \text{SI for 5 yrs} = \text{Rs } 1300, P + \text{SI for 3 yrs} = \text{Rs } 1180$
 $\therefore \text{S.I for 2 yrs} = 1300 - 1180 = \text{Rs } 120$

SI for 3 yrs = $120 \times \frac{3}{2} = \text{Rs } 180$

$P = 1180 - 180 = \text{Rs } 1000$

19. (b) Let son's present age be x

A.T.S. $\frac{56 - x + 7}{x + 7} = \frac{5}{2} \Rightarrow x = 13$

$\therefore \text{Father's present age} = 56 - x$

20. (c) Req'd. diff = $26 \times 4 - 23 \times 4 = 12$

21. (b) $a^2 + 2ab + b^2 = (a + b)^2$ $2ab = 2 \times 1.79 \times 1.21$
 $= (1.79 + 1.21)^2 = 2.42 \times 1.79$
 $= 3.6^2 = 9$

22. (b) $1 + 2 + x + 4 = 7 + x$ which is divisible by 9 if $x = 2$

23. (a) $x \times (\frac{100 - 15}{100}) \times (\frac{100 - 10}{100}) = 107.10 \Rightarrow x = 140$

24. (a) Men Days Hrs

20 21 8

48 7 x

more men less hours

48 : 20

Less days more hours

7 . 21

$\therefore x = \frac{8 \times 20 \times 21}{48 \times 7} = 10 \text{ hrs}$

25. (c) $x \times 3x = 1323 \Rightarrow x^2 = \frac{1323}{3} = 441 \Rightarrow x = 21$

Larger no. = $21 \times 3 = 63$

26. (b) $\frac{\frac{9}{10} \text{ of } \frac{10}{12} \text{ of } \frac{13}{13}}{\frac{12}{13} \text{ of } \frac{13}{3}} + \frac{2}{5} (\frac{3+2}{6}) \text{ of } \frac{1155}{6160} = \frac{3}{4} + \frac{2}{5} (\frac{5}{6}) \text{ of } \frac{3}{16} = 12$

27. (c) Let the no. of boys be x

A.T.S. $x \times 2x \times 25 = 180.50 \Rightarrow x^2 = 361 \Rightarrow x = 19$

28. (a) $p : q : r = 2 : 3 : 5$ $p : q : r : s = 10 : 15 : 20 : 30$
 or $10 : 15 : 18 : 80 : 120 : 144 : 162$ or $40 : 60 : 72 : 81$
29. (d) Soldiers Days
 $420 \quad (70 - 10) = 60 \quad \therefore x = \frac{60 \times 420}{630} = 40$ days
30. (c) Let first pipe be turned off after x minutes
 $x\left(\frac{1}{20} + \frac{1}{30}\right) + (18 - x) \times \frac{1}{30} = 1 \Rightarrow x = 8$ minutes
31. (c) $\frac{x}{2.5} - \frac{x}{3} = 1 \Rightarrow x = 15$ km
32. (a) Men hrs days
 20 8 18
 16 9 x
- Less men more days }
 16 : 20 }
 More hrs less days }
 9 : 8 }
 $18 : x \quad \therefore x = \frac{18 \times 20 \times 8}{9 \times 16} = 20$ days
33. (c) Let the no. of males be x
 A.T.S. $\frac{110}{100} \times x + \frac{94}{100} (200000 - x) = 200000 \Rightarrow x = 75000$
34. (d) S.P. of 20 oranges $= 1 \times \left(\frac{100 + 25}{100}\right) = \frac{5}{4}$
 $\therefore$ No. of oranges sold for a rupee $= 20 \times \frac{4}{5} = 16$
35. (d) S.I. $= \frac{2500 \times 4}{100} \times \frac{9}{12} + \frac{(2500 - 1000)}{100} \times 4 \times \frac{(12 - 9)}{12} = 90$
36. (a) S.I. for 7 yrs + P = Rs 568, S.I. for 5 yrs + P = Rs 520
 $\therefore$ S.I. for 2 yrs = $568 - 520 =$ Rs 48
 $\therefore$ S.I. for 5 yrs $= 48 \times \frac{5}{2} =$ Rs 120
 P = $520 - 120 =$ Rs 400
37. (b) Work done by both pipes in 2 minutes
 $= \frac{1}{40} - \frac{1}{60} = \frac{1}{120}$
 $\therefore$ Work done by both pipes in 1 minute $= \frac{1}{240}$
 $\therefore$ Vessel can be filled in 240 minutes = 4 hrs
38. (a) $\frac{A}{B} = \frac{4}{5}, \frac{B}{C} = \frac{5}{2} \quad \frac{A}{C} = \frac{A}{B} \times \frac{B}{C} = \frac{4}{5} \times \frac{5}{2} = 2$
 $A : C = 2 : 1$
39. (b) Income tax = 6 p in a rupee = 6%
 $(100 - 6)\%$ of Rs $x =$ Rs 4794 $\Rightarrow x =$ Rs 5100
40. (a) $\frac{2}{5}x^2 = 2.5 = \frac{5}{2} \Rightarrow x^2 = \frac{5}{2} \times \frac{5}{2} \Rightarrow x = \frac{5}{2} = 2.5$
41. (a) Let the reqd rate be x km/hr

- Rate of swimming with stream $= (x + 1.5)$ km/hr
 Rate of swimming against stream $= (x - 1.5)$ km/hr
 A.T.S. $D = s \times t$
 $(x + 1.5)t = 2(x - 1.5) \times t \Rightarrow x = 4.5$ km
42. (a) While A covers 1000 m, B covers $(1000 - 30 - 20) = 950$ m
 950 m is covered by B in 5 minutes
 $\therefore$ 1000 m is covered by B in $\frac{5}{950} \times 1000 = 5\frac{5}{19}$ min.
43. (d) Quantity of flour in Rs 32 $= \frac{32}{40} \times 100 = 80$ kg
 Quantity of flour in Rs 42 $= \frac{42}{35} \times 100 = 120$ kg
- | Men | Flour (in kg) | Days |
|-----|---------------|------|
| 16 | 80 | 5 |
| 12 | 120 | x |
- Less men more days }
 12 : 16 }
 More flour more days }
 80 : 120 }
 $\therefore x = \frac{5 \times 16 \times 120}{80 \times 12} = 10$ days
44. (a) A's share $= \frac{2}{2+3+4} \times 873 =$ Rs 194
45. (c) Milk $= \frac{4}{4+3} \times 42 = 24$ l .. water = 18 l
 A.T.S. $\frac{24}{18+x} = \frac{4}{5} \Rightarrow x = 12$ l
46. (a) Quantity of Ist type $= \frac{60}{5} \times 1 = 12$
 IInd type $= \frac{60}{5} \times 1 = 12$, IIIRD $= \frac{60 \times 3}{5} = 36$ l
 Average price $= \frac{12 \times 24 + 12 \times 30 + 36 \times 42}{60} =$ Rs 36
47. (a) C.P. of cloth $= 85.80 \times \frac{100}{130} =$ Rs 66, P = Rs 16.50
 $\therefore$ S.P. = C.P. + P = $66 + 16.50 =$ Rs 82.50
 S.P. of 1 m = Rs 7.50
 $\therefore$ Length of cloth $= \frac{82.50}{7.50} = 11$ m
48. (a) Let one no. be $x \quad \therefore 2x = 1408 \Rightarrow x = 704$
 Other no. $= \frac{\text{Product}}{\text{one no.}} = \frac{123904}{704} = 176$
49. (b) Cost of 1 gm $= \frac{99450}{9 \times 1000} =$ Rs 11.05
50. (b) $\frac{a^2 - b^2}{a - b} = a + b = .704 + .296 = 1.0$
 $(a = .704, b = .296)$

General Awareness

Questions Specially designed for the forthcoming Bank Probationary Officers' examinations

1. The 48th Miss Universe '99 title was given to Ms Mpule Kwelagobe of _____ at Chaguaranas in Trinidad and Tobago.

- (a) Philippines (b) Jamaica
(c) Botswana (d) South Africa

2. Dr Bindeshwar Pathak, founder of Sulabh International was given L K. Bakshi Memorial Award '99 for promotion of.

- (a) Pollution-free environment (b) Travel and tourism
(c) spreading education (d) all of these

3. Mashkoh, Drass, Kargil and Batalik in Jammu and Kashmir are on the route of which national highway?

- (a) 1A (b) 2B (c) 4A (d) 7A

4. If Gahirmatha sanctuary is to Orissa then Jaldapara sanctuary is to.

- (a) West Bengal (b) Karnataka
(c) Kerala (d) Uttar Pradesh

5. Match the following:

Institute	Place
1. Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute	A. Mumbai
2. National Institute of Animal Genetics	B. Pune
3. National Institute of Virology	C. Karnal
4. Institute for Research in Reproduction	D. Jaipur

Codes:

- | | | | |
|-------|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| (a) D | C | B | A |
| (b) C | D | A | B |
| (c) C | A | D | B |
| (d) D | C | A | B |

6. In consideration with Vithal Committee's recommendation, RBI Governor Bimal Jalan has increased Ways and Means Advances limits to States from Rs 2234.40 crore to Rs 3685 crore. This increase is _____ per cent.

- (a) 25 (b) 35 (c) 55 (d) 65

7. During ninth five-year plan the revised power capacity addition target is of _____ Megawatt.

- (a) 40254 (b) 40245 (c) 40524 (d) 40542

8. During ninth five-year plan the revised target of establishing the primary schools under the education guarantee scheme is:

- (a) 1.8 lakh primary schools
(b) 11 lakh primary schools
(c) 1.6 lakh primary schools
(d) 1.5 lakh primary schools

9. The controversial Super 301 law of America is in reference to:

- (a) unfair agriculture practice (b) industrial strikes
(c) unfair trade practice (d) all the above

10. In the modified exim policy, government has shifted _____ items to the Special Import Licence (SIL) category from restricted list.

- (a) 414 (b) 894 (c) 144 (d) 984

11. Name the US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs.

- (a) Scott Rittler (b) Richard Butler
(c) Naresh Chandra (d) Karl Inderfurth

12. 'CEYFAIR-99' a Career, Education and Youth International Fair, was held from 11th June to 13th June 1999 in India in which city?

- (a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi
(c) Bangalore (d) Pune

13. Lifetime Achievement Award by All India Industries Association has been given to:

- (a) Kanti Poddar (b) Rahul Bajaj
(c) H P. Nanda (d) Nani Palkhivala

14. In India from 20th May to 1st July we have which monsoon.

- (a) North-east monsoon (b) South-east monsoon
(c) South-west monsoon (d) South-north monsoon

15. ISRO is going to construct second launch pad at Sriharikota range. The total amount that has been sanctioned till May '99 is:

- (a) Rs 280 crore (b) Rs 270 crore
(c) Rs 260 crore (d) Rs 208 crore

16. RBI has set up National Payment Council under the Chairmanship of:

- (a) Y.V. Reddy (b) S.P. Talwar
(c) I.K. Iyer (d) Bimal Jalan

17. Nationalist Congress Party is brain-child of:

- (a) Tariq Anwar (b) P.A. Sangma
(c) Sharad Pawar (d) all the above

18. Magnum sectors fund scheme umbrella is a sectoral fund scheme of:

- (a) UTI (b) IDBI (c) SBI (d) SBI mutual

19. In the Cannes film festival, Golden Camera Award was given to Murli Nair for his film:

- (a) Throne of Death (b) High Death
(c) King of Death (d) Icy Death

20. The International film federation environment award '99 was given to B.V. Rao, director of film:

- (a) Ways to Sacrifice (b) Willing to Sacrifice
(c) The Thin Line (d) A Red Dot

21. International Caravan '99 was a global people movement against the policies of _____ in various European countries.

- (a) USA (b) WTO (c) WHO (d) all of these
22. L.G. Electronics of Korea is going to join hands with Royal Phillips Electronics of:
(a) Malaysia (b) Philippines
(c) Indonesia (d) Netherlands
23. Name the first SAIL plant to get ISO-14001, a certificate for pollution control and environment management.
(a) Bokaro (b) Bhilai (c) Salem (d) None of these
24. In Baroda ITF Women's Master Tennis tournament at Lucknow, Archana Venkataraman was defeated by:
(a) Nita Lal (b) Sai Jallakshmi
(c) Raj Jaishri (d) Krita Srilakshmi
25. In the Sudirman Cup tournament, China defeated Denmark at Copenhagen. The Cup is associated with:
(a) Table Tennis (b) Chess
(c) Athletics (d) Badminton
26. In the Italian Open at Rome, Gustavo Kuerten defeated Pat Rafter by 6-4, 7-5, 7-6. He belongs to:
(a) Brazil (b) Australia (c) Scotland (d) USA
27. SAARC summit is going to be held in Thimpu at Bhutan in the year:
(a) 2000 (b) 2001 (c) 2002 (d) 2003
28. Which Indian company has sold its business of dairy to Nutricia International AV Ltd of Netherlands.
(a) Amul (b) Parag (c) HLL (d) Dabur
29. Mr Ehud Barak is the new Prime Minister of:
(a) Italy (b) Israel (c) Indonesia (d) Jordan
30. Ms Shiva Vyas is the first Indian woman to score music in Hollywood film with Jane Campion, who is the director of:
(a) House of Thunder (b) Holy Fire
(c) Holy Smoke (d) Ganges—the holy river
31. Mr Mahendra Choudhary is the new Prime Minister of Fiji. He has taken charge from:
(a) Sitiveni Rabuka (b) Abdelaziz
(c) Gulu Ezekil (d) Carlo Areguo
32. Mr Joseph W. Sutton is the chief executive officer of:
(a) UNDP (b) UNESCO (c) ENRON (d) UNICEF
33. India's second largest and sixth international airport is at:
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Kochi (d) Bangalore
34. Chamera Hydel Project of 300 MW is situated in:
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Arunachal Pradesh
35. _____ is a card to exporters who export fifty per cent of their production exceeding Rs one crore annually.
(a) PIO card (b) DEPB
(c) Green card (d) EXIM card
36. The luxurious ship that sank off the Western coast of Malaysia on May 20, 1999, was known as:
(a) Titanic (b) Sun Vista
(c) Vista Levlor (d) Titanic Sun
37. India and Turkmenistan have joined hands on political consultations. The agreement was signed by Jaswant Singh and Saparmurat Niyazov. He is:
(a) Prime Minister
(b) Foreign Minister

- (c) President
(d) Commerce and Trade Minister
38. Septicemia is a:
(a) drug (b) virus (c) fungus (d) disease
39. Match the following:
- | Important days | Occasion |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| A. 31st May | 1. World Red Cross Day |
| B. 24th May | 2. World Environment Day |
| C. 8th May | 3. Anti-Tobacco Day |
| D. 5th June | 4. Commonwealth Day |
- Codes:
- | | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| (b) | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| (c) | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| (d) | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
40. 'East is East' is a British film starring:
(a) Om Puri (b) Amrish Puri
(c) Aamir Khan (d) Salman Khan
41. First Asian to be ambassador of Omega watches is:
(a) Shahrukh Khan (b) Salman Khan
(c) Aamir Khan (d) Only (a) and (c)
42. Assertion (A): India and French relations have improved by the larger strategic dialogue between the two countries.
Reason (R): France was impressed by the Nuclear test carried out by India.
(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(c) A is true but R is false. (d) A is false but R is true.
43. First Indian port to be corporatised by Union Cabinet:
(a) Ennore Greenfield Port
(b) Haldia Port
(c) Jawaharlal Nehru Port
(d) Kandla Port
44. The world's largest producer of fruit and vegetables has only one per cent share in the global trade in processed food. Which country is this?
(a) USA (b) UK (c) Germany (d) India
45. Which Article of Indian Constitution clearly mentions that it is the duty of the Union to protect States against external aggression and internal disturbance?
(a) 352 (b) 358 (c) 355 (d) 354

ANSWERS

- | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (c) | 2. (b) | 3. (a) | 4. (a) | 5. (a) | 6. (d) |
| 7. (b) | 8. (a) | 9. (c) | 10. (b) | 11. (d) | 12. (b) |
| 13. (d) | 14. (c) | 15. (a) | 16. (b) | 17. (c) | 18. (d) |
| 19. (a) | 20. (b) | 21. (b) | 22. (d) | 23. (c) | 24. (b) |
| 25. (d) | 26. (a) | 27. (c) | 28. (c) | 29. (b) | 30. (c) |
| 31. (a) | 32. (c) | 33. (c) | 34. (c) | 35. (c) | 36. (b) |
| 37. (c) | 38. (d) | 39. (a) | 40. (a) | 41. (a) | 42. (c) |
| 43. (a) | 44. (d) | 45. (c) | | | |

Improve Your Word Power

1. **affectation**: (a) trial (b) trouble (c) artificiality (d) truth.

2. **brash**: (a) rudely self-assertive (b) politely self-confident (c) selfishly ambitious (d) cautiously helpful.

3. **cocoon**: (a) infectious disease (b) protective covering (c) defensive argument (d) offensive remark.

4. **doltish**: (a) hard-working (b) stupid (c) intelligent (d) careful

5. **empathise**: (a) simplify (b) clarify (c) identify (d) rectify.

6. **fettle**: (a) fitness (b) depression (c) mood (d) preparation.

7. **gung-ho**: (a) deprived (b) depressed (c) enthusiastic (d) rational.

8. **hoodwink**: (a) pacify (b) deceive (c) believe (d) achieve.

9. **implode**: (a) discourage (b) encourage (c) shout (d) burst.

10. **jugular**: (a) strongest link (b) meanest fellow (c) wisest counsel (d) weakest point.

11. **keel**: (a) collapse (b) carry (c) collect (d) count.

12. **lambent**: (a) bitter (b) witty (c) sweet (d) vulgar.

13. **mendacity**: (a) reality (b) fancy (c) flight (d) lie.

14. **outlandish**: (a) satisfactory (b) critical (c) strange (d) natural.

15. **peeve**: (a) flatter (b) strike (c) annoy (d) push.

16. **quotidian**: (a) commonplace (b) powerful (c) underdog (d) simpleton.

17. **reek**: (a) hit (b) harass (c) educate (d) stink.

18. **smirk** (v): (a) make undue demands (b) give silly smile (c) hasten downfall (d) cut silly jokes.

19. **taciturn**: (a) uncommunicative (b) unbecoming (c) unfriendly (d) unfair.

20. **vapidity**: (a) stillness (b) willingness (c) smoothness (d) dullness.

behaviour/outburst in the meeting.

5. **empathise**: (c) identify.

—He *empathises* with the youngsters who have to contend with social discrimination and poverty.

6. **fettle**: (a) fitness, cheerful

—The team are all in excellent *fettle*

7. **gung-ho**: (c) enthusiastic.

—The mood in the party at the time of elections was *gung-ho*

8. **hoodwink**: (b) deceive, fool.

—In order to *hoodwink* the voters, political parties vie with each other in making populist promises

9. **implode**: (d) burst, collapse.

—The U.S. is pursuing the impossible in the sub-continent by trying to *implode* what has already been exploded

10. **jugular**: (d) weakest point.

—In a debate, the best course lies in exposing or going for the *jugular* in the opponent's argument (attacking the weakest point).

11. **keel**: (a) collapse.

—The structure had *keeled* over in the high winds.

12. **lambent**: (b) witty.

—The discourse of the learned speaker was both *lambent* and instructive.

13. **mendacity**: (d) lie, falsehood.

—The report presented to the members was nothing but a sugar-coated *mendacity*.

14. **outlandish**: (c) strange.

—His views on the current political situation are rather *outlandish*

15. **peeve**: (c) annoy.

—The young leader in the ruling party is *peevish* at being pipped (defeated) at the top

16. **quotidian**: (a) commonplace, trivial

—Essentially the story-writer is a chronicler of the *quotidian*, recording the joys and sorrows of ordinary people in their day-to-day lives.

17. **reek**: (d) stink

—Each statement that she makes *reeks* of an attitude that is both hideous and self-serving

18. **smirk** (v): (b) give silly smile.

—I cannot understand why she kept *smirking* in the meeting

19. **taciturn**: (a) uncommunicative.

—With his *taciturn* nature, he is seldom invited to a party.

20. **vapidity**: (d) dullness.

—The upwardly mobile brats get away with their vacuous (thoughtless) arrogance because the media celebrates social *vapidity*.

ANSWERS

1. **affectation**: (c) artificiality, pretension.

—Some critics are of the opinion that her charm and affability (friendliness) border on *affectation*.

2. **brash**: (a) rudely self-assertive.

—Owning a gun is fast becoming a routine with the

new breed of *brash* youngmen considering themselves above the law

3. **cocoon**: (b) protective covering.

—The lady artist took a long time to come out of her *cocoon* to hold an exhibition of her murals and pottery.

4. **doltish**: (b) stupid.

—None was prepared to forgive him for his *doltish*



The Changing Face of Media

The media fascinates most of us. Its sheer power—what is featured in the media today becomes the talk of the town tomorrow—makes us want to become the opinion leaders of tomorrow. Its portrayal of glamour—unknown people become famous by acting in serials or getting featured in newspapers—makes us want to work in television or become models. Its reach—one moment in time may become etched in eternity in the minds of millions of people—attracts us to advertising. Its mesmerising effect—people spend hours poring over newspapers or watching television—shapes how we live, think and work.

Yet, no science fiction writer or soothsayer could predict how people would be enslaved by the media. George Orwell in 1984 painted a picture of the State trying to control all its subjects. It seemed a plausible thing to happen. Yet, democracy has taken firm root in many parts of the world. The freedom of expression that comes with democracy has brought in different lifestyles and ushered in newspapers, magazines and television like never before. As we mindlessly switch on television and change channels, or prefer to spend hours 'chatting' on the Internet rather than meeting real people, we hardly realise how the media has come to rule the world with its amazing power.

In our cover story this month, we trace the history of the media in the country and assess its role and importance. We also describe the careers that can be made in different departments of media organisations. The feature takes a comprehensive look at the media and will help understand its working, the constraints and the opportunities. It also assesses whether the media is fulfilling its role and what road it might take in the future.

The history of the media in India is a fascinating story. At one time, it was not merely a communication medium for the news or a vehicle to know all the trivial details about celebrities. In pre independence India, a fledgling press kept up the fight for freedom despite persecution. Some papers, at least, aroused the people not only against foreign rule but tried to instil values as well. It was a means of ushering in social change.

The idealism of the times continued for a while after independence. Newspapers were not obsessed with commercial aspects and journalists enjoyed freedom to a very great extent. True, newspapers were owned by business houses having interests in many other industries and sometimes they were used by owners as a help for lobbying and influencing government decisions, but for the most part editorial integrity was maintained. There were a few magazines, and they too fol-

lowed the general trend in the country.

Changes in newspapers

Commercial interests slowly started moving to centre-stage as the nation matured. The newspaper became to be seen as a business like any other, with emphasis on revenues and market shares than on editorial quality. When Mrs Indira Gandhi declared Emergency, a few newspapers refused to accept her authority.

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Newspapers and magazines have come a long way since Mahatma Gandhi tried to rouse the nation through his *Young Indian*.

Today, newspapers would have us believe that the most important things in life are fashion, having a good life, and sex.

Models and minor celebrities write columns telling people how they should live.

Electricity was switched off to their offices and a censorship imposed. Certain newspapers carried blank pages rather than publish what suited the political leadership. Two newspapers—the *Indian Express* and *The Statesman*—bore the brunt of Mrs Gandhi's anger more than other newspapers.

The Emergency was a turning point for the newspaper industry in India.

What Mrs Indira Gandhi could not achieve through force was achieved by the profit motive. Editors lost their importance as owners insisted in getting more readership and advertising revenue. The newspaper became just another consumer product and began to be sold as such. Plenty of schemes were offered by newspapers and magazines to entice more readers. In Delhi and other parts of India the papers were sold for ridiculously low prices first Rs 1.50 for a copy, and later for just Re 1. Magazines were not to be left behind, offering subscription gifts that made their cost almost negligible.

Readers no doubt welcomed these changes. The poorly printed papers of the past have given way to colour editions and the slick looks of modern newspapers. Magazines are glossy and colourful—something unheard of just a few years back. Technology has helped not only in production, but communication as well, enabling information to travel around the globe in seconds.

The casualty of technology and the commercial interest has been serious journalism. Today the media seems to be caught in a mire of mediocrity, with newspapers and magazines trying to hold the attention of readers amidst the highly seductive images on television. The media has become a means of time pass, with serious issues thrown out in favour of the eye-catching but cosmetic images that we are accustomed to these days. Media organisations are involved in marketing wars, trying to get hold of each other's subscribers. When survival is of prime concern, newspapers can ill afford to fight a war on principles or to publish anything that might hurt either the readers or the political leadership. Thus, newspaper pages are filled with official handouts and large sections on fashion and films—information which is non-controversial and does not threaten survival. Retired editors, army officers, models, celebrities and bureaucrats hold forth on topics they have no expertise in, through newspaper columns everyday.

Newspapers and magazines have come a long way since Mahatma Gandhi tried to rouse the nation through his *Young Indian*. Today, newspapers would

have us believe that the most important things in life are fashion, having a good life, and sex. Models and minor celebrities write columns telling people how they should live.

Television was started in 1959 in Delhi in a limited transmission and in 1965 it became a regular service. In the seventies, television transmitters were set up in other States as well. In 1964, television was delinked from All India Radio and Doordarshan was formed. *Doordarshan* was set up to meet information and social objectives, but soon became the mouthpiece of two powerful segments—the cinema and the ruling party. Marked by ineptitude and boring programmes, *Doordarshan* ruled as a monopoly but found itself being edged out by satellite television as the skies opened. Today there is a polarisation—the affluent watch cable television while the poor watch *Doordarshan* since it is free. The viewership of *Doordarshan* is estimated to be around 300 million.

The revolution in television had several effects. The Indian people were freed from boring television, they could watch the latest and glossy programmes, young people lacking political contacts could be hired for presentation jobs, and there was an opening up of attitudes. On the other hand, people complained of cultural invasion and there was danger that we would lose our culture and tradition. There were protests and heated debates, but many fears seem to have been unfounded. Rather than change the culture of Indians, broadcasting companies found that they had to change programming to suit local tastes.

If it was cultural pollution, it seemed to work in reverse. Indian music could now be heard in other countries and the popularity of Indian movies too spread in many countries. Though the criticism about cultural pollution does not stand up to scrutiny, there were some real problems—the increase of aggression and violence in society and the over-emphasis on material goods. It would be difficult to say to what extent satellite television was responsible for such behaviour, but the charge could not be denied altogether. Society does appear to be moving towards Western lifestyles, but a part of

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The newspaper became just another consumer product and began to be sold as such. Plenty of schemes were offered by newspapers and magazines to entice more readers. Magazines were not to be left behind, offering subscription gifts that made their cost almost negligible.

this could be a natural movement towards modernism

Radio takes a beating, too

The print media was not the only one running scared because of the television juggernaut. Radio had ruled for decades. Akashvani Broadcasting Corporation was started in 1927. The government took it over in 1930 and changed to All India Radio (AIR) in 1936. Since 1957, it is known as Akashvani. Earlier, the radio was the only source of entertainment and news, and there was scarcely a household which did not have a radio. With the advent of television, the monopoly was broken and radio found itself pushed to an inconsequential position.

The fate of radio in the country is tragic, since it has been killed not just by technology but more by the bureaucracy. First it refused to change itself and continued broadcasting the mournful com-

mentaries and outdated music. Secondly, it failed to professionalise—even today many programmes are marked by amateur attempts. Thirdly, though all over the world FM broadcasting had made local station popular, India used FM to broadcast the same services that were available on Medium Wave. There was an attempt at privatisation in the metros and in just a few years radio listening became popular in the cities once again.

The government, however, then decided that the private operators were making too much money. Moving swiftly, it threw out the private operators and took over the FM channels. The programming returned to its mediocre past.

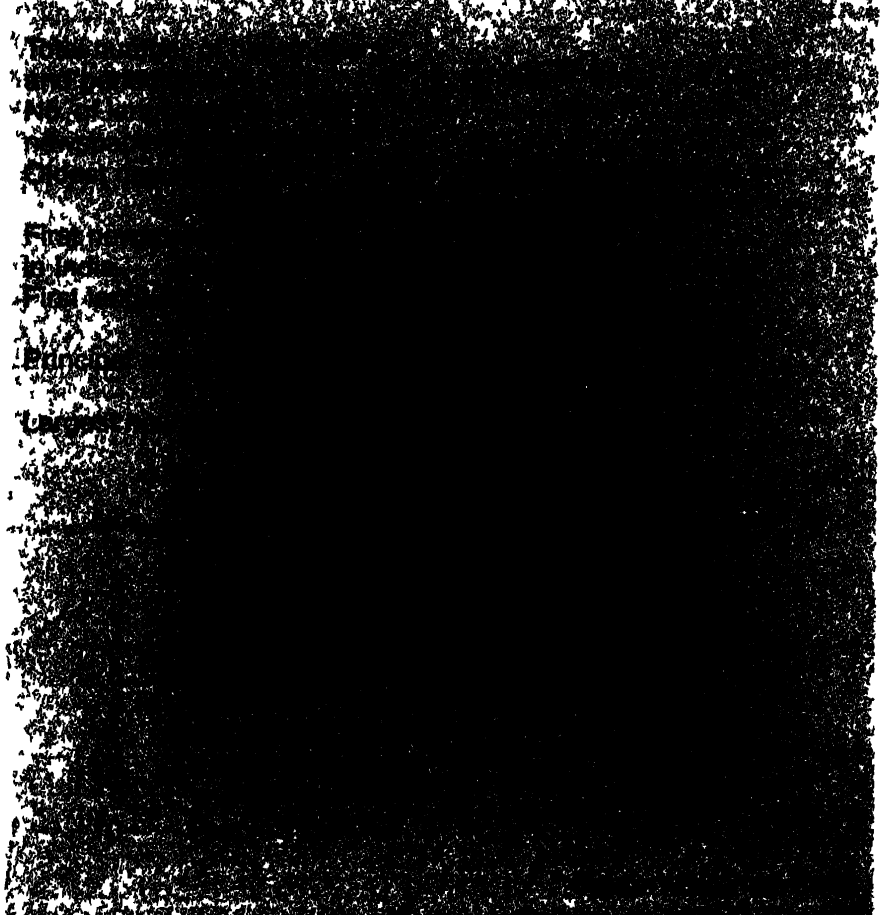
Watchdog or handmaiden?

The momentous changes in the media has led to a change in its role. Earlier it provided news, now its role is more towards providing entertainment. Similarly, debate

has been reduced to the lowest levels, with the press speculating loudly about matters such as who should be the next cricket captain and writing other salacious gossip. Television reporting is a wonder, with much effort being spent in pursuing politicians and celebrities who have nothing important to say. To be in the news, people often say controversial things, which provides matter for the news for a few days. Instead of intelligent debate, the media today fuels speculation and gossip.

The press is often said to serve the role of a watchdog in democracy. This means that it should maintain vigil and not hesitate to expose the corrupt and the incompetent. On the contrary, in India, news reporting has been reduced to publishing press releases from various agencies, with little or no effort being made to investigate or follow up stories. The last major corruption scoop exposed by the Indian press was that of the Bofors.

Some Media Facts



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bribery case several years back. In other corruption cases, it has been a bystander, merely printing court proceedings. In the famous hawala case, for example, where several politicians were accused of conducting illegal foreign exchange transactions, newspapers refused to publish the findings initially. It was only after a public interest litigation was admitted by the court that newspapers started reporting about it.

Similarly, there is little or no follow up on continuing stories. Crime and murder stories are sought to create a sensation but are soon forgotten.

Should the media only provide subject matter for the chattering classes? This question has to be answered by the managers of newspapers, magazines and television channels. If the present trend continues, the media will lose whatever little credibility it has. That would be a great fall indeed from the high ideals followed in pre-independence India.

A crisis of credibility

The media faces a great credibility crisis today. The lack of serious reporting and commentary belittles the media.

Commercial interests have made media into a business like any other, mediocre talent has reduced the quality of reporting and commentary. The ideals of freedom and morality have been forgotten. When it trivialises issues or when it is stuck with stories of lifestyles of celebrities, it is little wonder that people do not take the media seriously. Today, people accused of corruption rarely take newspapers to court because they know that people either do not believe in the allegations or that they would soon be forgotten. That is a sad comment on the credibility of the media.

Together with advertising, the media often creates such a hype that the viewer is left wondering whether there are any limits to commercialism. The latest Cricket World Cup saw such a huge build-up of hype that the game was forgotten. The hype not only put pressure on the players but trivialised the actual achievements in many fields. The stark contrast between hype and reality was evident in May this year when the Kargil

crisis broke out. It was found out that in the early days of the crisis, newspapers were actually using more space for reporting the World Cup!

The credibility of the media also suffers because it does not go into the depth of issues. In the field of careers, a number of institutes offer degrees, sometimes with foreign collaboration. The education pages of newspapers frequently feature this information and counsellors recommend such courses and books. But no paper has done an analysis about the reputation and utility of such degrees and the student is often taken for a ride. Surely, the media should investigate claims made by different organisations rather than publishing them blindly.

The reason why it does not investigate is that quite often, journalists are bribed to write what is required. Gifts are openly given at press conferences, which reporters greedily lap up. The unwritten understanding is that the claims be printed without verification. The intrepid reporter, risking his life to get a scoop against vested interests, now exists only in the movies.

Future of the media

The path taken by the media to become a consumer products industry is a double-edged sword. The audience may increase as a result of innovative marketing techniques, but the danger is that the newspaper would begin to be treated like any other consumer product. This is already happening to some extent. The more serious consequence of this trend is that over-dependence on commercial interests dulls independent and fearless reporting. The media then becomes merely a means of entertainment and may be losing out on its traditional strength of free thought.

As newspapers begin looking like each other and there is little to differentiate between different television channels, society loses a great deal. Unbiased views are the basis of democracy and if these are not encouraged, is not our very foundation in danger? If the media gives up its role as a watchdog, can we blame the criminalisation of politics and the rampant corruption that plagues us today?

It's Your Turn!

We are quite sure that our readers are avid readers or are touched by the media in different ways. THE COMPETITION MASTER invites you to speak your minds out. You can tell us how the media has affected you or comment on its role. How has it affected the culture in your home or school? You can take up any aspect mentioned in our feature or take a fresh look at the media.

THE COMPETITION MASTER will give prizes to the best three entries received: Rs 2000, Rs 1500 and Rs 1000. There are also 15 consolation prizes of Rs 100 each. Other notable viewpoints will be published in our issues during the year. Entries should not be more than 250 words long, written neatly on one side of the paper. They should include the complete name and address of the writer. Also include details about your educational background, name of your school or college, your ambition, date of birth, hobbies and what you are doing at present. Your entry should be accompanied by a cutting of the coupon below. No photocopies please.

Remember to send along with your entry a photograph, preferably in colour, with your name and address written at its back. Entries without any of these details will not be considered.

We reserve the right to edit the entries for reasons of clarity or space. The last date for receipt of entries is August 30, 1999. The decision of the editor will be final and no correspondence in this regard will be entertained.

Send your entries to: The Media Contest, THE COMPETITION MASTER, 126 Industrial Area Phase I, Chandigarh 160 002.



CAREERS IN THE MEDIA

There are a host of part and full-time positions available in the media. With a plethora of magazines, newspapers and television channels, a trained person will always be able to find a job. The multitude of television channels provide openings for young people who are trained and are talented. Growth in the industry depends on a number of factors, including the quality of work and past achievements. There is no limit to growth and several top managers earn very high salaries indeed.

If a career in the media interests you, the first step is to see where your aptitude lies. This is because it is easy to get carried away by the glamour on television and advertisements to want to be a part of it. Please remember that the glamour is just a facade—most of the work in the media is hard work. Television serials and films may like to depict news reporters as happy-go-lucky people travelling to exotic places pursuing their stories, such as Shah Rukh Khan in *Dil Se*. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Few correspondents get to travel; for the most part the job consists of covering some events in town, listening to speeches made by the organisers. Similarly, a career in advertising is not just shooting young girls bathing under waterfalls, but tedious work of understanding the client.

In the print media, there are several options available. One can work to become a journalist: a degree in mass communication or journalism from a university will help you learn the basics. Starting from reporter, a person can rise to become an editor. Some people get selected by the foreign news organisations, which is considered lucrative. Many fellowships and freebies are available for journalists, which are the perks of the job. If one cannot join full time, one can be a free lance journalist and work from the home.

Working in the print media is just not journalism. Since another important aspect of the media is advertising revenue, there are jobs in the space selling departments. Marketing people are in great demand, and the basic qualification required is MBA. Circulation and trade are other departments of a newspaper or magazine.

Since many organisations want to get their viewpoint featured in the press, jobs of public relations are in great demand as well. A PR executive is a middleman between an organisation and the media. There are many independent PR consultants and some PR agencies who do the work for clients on contractual basis. A person can work with such agencies or later, open one's own office.

To work on the radio, look for someone in the government who can recommend you. Since radio is controlled by the government, the jobs of announcers and presenters are given to those who have contacts. Only rarely will a person get taken through an audition. The same is the case if you want to work for *Doodarshan*. Only talent will probably not help you in these organisations. Otherwise, look for private producers. Some reputed ones like NDTV and TV 18 could be viable options. Appear in an audition and if you are good, you will certainly get a chance. Courses are also available in large cities which



Prannoy Roy
A success story of TV journalism

groom people for television.

In recent times there has been a contraction in operations of television production companies, which is linked to the economic slowdown that the country has been going through. Many channels have shut down their operations and fresh collaborations have not matured. Industry experts believe that this is a temporary phase and a boom time will come as the

economy picks up.

There are many jobs available behind the camera as well. Producers, directors, music composers, cameramen, lighting, and so on are eagerly sought by production companies. Training from the Film and Television Institute of India is required. Many other studios also provide such training.

A new media that is growing in leaps and bounds these days is the Internet. Many career opportunities have opened up because of this. Almost every organisation wants to have a presence on the Net, so people are needed for advertising, creating Web pages and maintaining sites. Existing sites may need people to market these sites. A training in computers and multimedia is required for such jobs. Computer institutes and those offering MCA courses can train a person in Internet technologies. As Internet is expected to grow in the future, so the jobs are also expected to multiply in times to come.

Career in the media is a viable option today. However, it is important to assess one's aptitude. A description given above shows that many jobs are available in marketing, so the best option would be to do MBA from one of the better institutes. If one is creative, a course in arts and design is the best. And if writing be your interest, it is advisable to do a journalism or mass communications course, again from a reputed university or institute. We have listed the institutes offering different courses in the past issues of THE COMPETITION MASTER and some are featured in our Admission Alert column too. Choose the area and the course with care and proper assessment.

List of prominent institutes

Indian Institute of Mass
Communication
JNU Campus, New Delhi

Jamia Millia Islamia Media Centre
Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi

Asian Academy of Film & Television
Marwah Studio, Film City, Noida

Imago Acting School
Brahma Studio, Film City, Noida

Indira Gandhi National Open
University
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi - 68

Mudra Institute of Communications
Sheila, Ahmedabad 380051

Besides the above, all State
Universities offer courses on
Journalism and Mass
communication

Personality & YOU

Don't be Time-Beggar

We cannot change nature's time table of allotting us a span of 24 hours but nothing can prevent us from making use of these 24 hours in the most constructive and satisfying manner. Minus the minutes you throw away, add them to your worthwhile activity and see that the day extends to 26 hours. More sadly we squander most senselessly even when we are given an ample supply of them.

Yesterday, the dead past, cannot be recalled, tomorrow is uncertain and today is the only 'time' you have at your disposal. Use today as if it were the last day of your life. One day spent honestly and wisely is worth many tomorrows.

Reckless wastage of time comes because we look upon life as an ocean of endless time. This is one of the greatest fallacies we nurture. Time is not an ocean; it is a goblet from which droplets come out.

Time can be compared with money. A practical man does not bother of his rupees, dollars or pounds. He takes care of his paise, pence and shillings. So does the wise user of time. He takes care of his minutes and seconds. Hours take care of themselves.

Gossip

A man who spends hours in idle gossip in a coffee house or bar will produce

nothing for his own self and his companions. Eventually, he tires of himself and time hangs heavy on him. He becomes notorious on two levels.

He deludes himself saying that life cannot be trapped into compartments. Thus, he lives a loose and unfixed life. He fails to understand that you cannot kill time without injuring eternity.

Ramesh leads a hurried but harried life simply because he is beaten by the clock. Instead of catching time by the forelock, he vainly tries to grasp it when it has gone by.

The phrase 'catch time by the forelock' has an interesting side to it. It is symbolically represented as bald but has a forelock. Thus, if you catch it by the forelock, you capture it. If not, it eludes you.

Surinder finds a lot of important chores staring at him making him irritable and uncomfortable. He is chronically short of time. The reason is that he is a procrastinator adept in the art of postponing things. His motto has been 'why do today what can be put off till tomorrow?'

He can break the habit by comparing himself with a person who is never hurried on this account. Both have the same amount of time in a day—24 hours. It is the difference in their respective approach to the utilisation of it that makes Surinder

an expert in dilly-dallying. He is not short of time. He is unorganised.

There was a time when I was ill-organised for time but I found that there were several unutilised spells of time which could be spent profitably. Just before leaving for the university where I taught, I found a ten minute spell which I used for flicking the pages of a book. Often I came across a good line or phrase.

In a like fashion, I found two spells of 20 minutes each in the evening. This time I used for revising an article or adding a couple of paras to it. Thus, converting a possible rejection slip into a cheque.

Excuses

ANOTHER factor that swallows time is the habit of inventing excuses. You do it unconsciously, 'I will do it in the morning.' 'This needs relaxation.' 'I will do it after 3 days.'

These are some of the excuses unconsciously used to put off a thing. There may be some reason in the excuse but enough to warrant you to postpone it indefinitely. You have to black out this habit. You will find taking jobs in hand instead of your hands being full of them—always.

Raminder's problem is his slavery to his moods. Often, he says, "I am not in a

mood to do it now I will take it up later when I am in a good mood'

Moods must be mastered because if you leave yourself to their mercy, you vacillate. Moods are bad masters. In fact, they are 'tyrants' who rule you mercilessly and drive you mad. You are left with a feeling of heaviness which is, in fact, a feeling of guilt and shame.

There is a way of overpowering bad masters. Remind yourself that to be called a moody person is unflattering. "He is very moody", is not a compliment. It means he is undependable and unreliable.

Do you like to be called so? Do the right thing at the right time and you will be the lord of your moods. Thus, you will begin to save time often and have more of it at your disposal. The shortage of time disappears.

Many have overcome the habit by writing the chores down and then sticking to the schedule as far as possible. But procrastinators often dismiss the idea with "Okay I will write them down tomorrow."

Jot down at least some important things you have been wanting to do and then get doing them as per your schedule entered in the diary. Do not hedge the task. Dip into it.

Satisfaction

ONCE the initial inertia is overcome, you will relish your accomplishment and you will want to do more. There is immense emotional satisfaction in accomplishing a job. It is a reward which spurs

you to achieve more.

It is a fact that you have no definite idea of how much time what takes. Have a fairly accurate idea of time it takes you to write a letter, dusting your room, or preparing notes etc. A clear picture helps in improving efficiency and organisation.

This will enable you not to shun work as any unused spell of time will be used in doing something which can be done in that period. Read the editorial in newspaper which you may have been missing for want of time. It takes a couple of minutes only.

Life cannot be capsuled in rigid time tables. There is an element of truth in it. But the answer to this argument is life without organisation is utter chaos. More over time tables can be altered.

The rewards of keeping it up to date are many. You finish your jobs quickly and on time. You are not haunted by the spectre of undone or half finished chores. Your mind becomes clear and uncluttered.

The clearer the mind, the more uncluttered it becomes, the greater becomes the capacity for self-analysis which renders immense help in self-improvement.

Priority

TRUE, at first glance everything on your list may seem urgent. But are urgent matters always important, deserving a major time investment? Michael Leboeuf, a professor of time management at the University of New Orleans, makes this observation: "Important things are seldom urgent

and urgent things are seldom important. The urgency of fixing a flat tire when you are late for an appointment is much greater than remembering to pay your auto insurance premium, but its importance (the tire) is, in most cases, relatively small.

He laments: "Unfortunately, many of us spend our lives fighting fires under the tyranny of the urgent. The result is that we ignore the less urgent but more important things in life. It's a great effectiveness killer."

So when setting priorities, ask yourself which activities are truly important. Then try to spend most of your time on these. Perhaps an urgent matter does not need immediate attention.

Does it justify a large time work at something that yields important results than it is simply to be busy at whatever activity happens to be at hand. Try to direct as many of your efforts as possible toward activities that result in true accomplishment.

Dr. Scott explains how to make it work for you. She says: "Identify the vital ingredients necessary to achieve your objective. Do these things first. You will get the most results in the least amount of time."

At this point you can better appreciate that being the master of your time is not a matter of being preoccupied with never wasting a minute or rushing from crisis to crisis.

Rather, effective time management means selecting the appropriate task for right now. It means discerning what activities yield the best results and spending your time on these whenever possible.

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English Language

- 1 Which one is the correct spelling?
 - (a) Wisdom
 - (b) Kidnay
 - (c) Malady
 - (d) Varity
2. Which sentence is correct?
 - (a) The shopkeeper deals with forbidden drugs
 - (b) They all begin to make fun at him
 - (c) Food is essential to life.
 - (d) This is not a true fact
- 3 In the passage below only one sentence is correct. Which is that?
 - (a) Help from outside fail to sustain a man's energy. (b) But help from within ever energizes (c) These is self help (d) That is require to be cultivated
- 4 Which is the right synonym of 'firm'?
 - (a) steady
 - (b) fixed
 - (c) ready
 - (d) strong
5. The right antonym of 'earlier' is
 - (a) before
 - (b) later
 - (c) sooner
 - (d) after
6. In the passage below, one capital letter is missing. What is this?
 - (a) Narayani heard those words from inside the house. (b) She was too weak to say anything. (c) Ramlal, who was making a bird's cage, (d) came out and said.
7. There is a case of punctuation error. What is this?
 - (a) Oh, what a fall is this?
 - (b) This is well done.
 - (c) Who can be both bold and wise?
 - (d) It's no business of mine.
8. There are four sentences. One is a complex sentence. Point this out.
 - (a) He has gone to the mountain.
 - (b) Jack and Jill had a fall.
 - (c) Those who quarrel and fight, are wiped out
 - (d) She had decided to go, but her husband did not agree.
- 9 From the following words, find out that which is nearest in meaning of 'felicity'
 - (a) progress
 - (b) peacefulness
 - (c) happiness
 - (d) blessing
- 10 From the words below, choose the one which is closest to the opposite in meaning of 'vindictive'
 - (a) kind
 - (b) forgetful
 - (c) forgiving
 - (d) helpful
- 11 What according to you should be the suitable word for the blank space given below?

Many countries have abolished punishment for the crime of murder

 - (a) capital
 - (b) corporal
 - (c) mortal
 - (d) ultimate
12. In the sentence below some parts have been jumbled up. Please arrange them in the proper sequence.
 - (a) a boy saved her
 - (b) by a running bus
 - (c) at the risk of his life
 - (d) a little girl was about to be run over
13. He had a long story to relate. 'Long' is here a
 - (a) noun
 - (b) verb
 - (c) adjective
 - (d) adverb
14. In what sentence 'wrong' is used as a verb?
 - (a) This is a wrong decision.
 - (b) Man is bound to make a wrong.
 - (c) You should not wrong anybody.
 - (d) This story has nothing to call wrong.
- 15 The word 'lunacy' means
 - (a) madness
 - (b) abruptness
 - (c) foolishness
 - (d) wickedness
16. What is the past tense of the verb 'sell'?
 - (a) sale
 - (b) sold
 - (c) solden
 - (d) no change
17. Which part of the sentence contains an error?
 - (a) He rushed to the station, (b) but could reach (c) only after the train left
- 18 What is the meaning of the word 'insomnia'?
 - (a) restlessness
 - (b) sleeplessness
 - (c) agony
 - (d) headache
- 19 'He shall do this' means
 - (a) He is bound to do this
 - (b) He will do this
 - (c) He likes to do this
 - (d) He is certain to do this
20. To what parts of speech, 'dormant' belongs?
 - (a) adjective
 - (b) noun
 - (c) verb
 - (d) adverb
- 21 Some prepositions are given below.

(a) to	(b) of
(c) for	(d) at

Which of them is missing in the sentence below?

Freedom is the only alternative _____ slavery
- 22 Find out the case in which the article has been used wrongly.
 - (a) a happy man
 - (b) an efficient actor
 - (c) a honest man
 - (d) an enquiry committee

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

- 23 Which is the meaning of 'of late'?
- lately
 - recently
 - coming late
 - latter
- 24 Which one of the four sentences below is in the passive voice?
- A tiger was killed by the hunter
 - The friar led the wolf into the forest
 - C.T.C. will run new bus services
 - Each day the town folk would bring food for the dying beggar
- 25 There are three sentences below. One of them is not in the passive voice. Which is that?
- The deed was done by them together
 - Kishanu then scored a lovely goal
 - The battle was thus lost and won
- 26 Which one is the noun form of 'wise'?
- wisdom
 - wising
 - wisdom
 - wisety
- 27
- A herd of elephants
 - A swarm of bees
 - A row of trees
 - A series of mountains
- Of the above group nouns, one is incorrect. Which is that?
- 28 Of the nouns (plural), one has no singular form. Point this out
- alms
 - colours
 - customs
 - spectacles
- 29 Some plural forms are given. Point out one that is not correct
- ships
 - policies
 - sheeps
 - wages
- 30 What is the past participle of the verb 'talk'?
- talking
 - talkative
 - talk
 - talked
- 31 The preposition after the word 'sensitive' is
- with
 - for

- at
 - to
- 32 We should _____ ourselves to changing circumstances
- adopt
 - alter
 - adapt
 - abandon
- 33 The misuse of preposition is in the sentence
- He is absent from the meeting
 - He is confined to bed
 - He is in that committee
 - There is no remedy for this
- 34 The correct sentence is
- I wish I were dead
 - You have no excuse to be late
 - I would do it if I was he
 - I would be surprised if he was successful
- 35 A synonym of the word 'ambiguous' is
- everlasting
 - vague
 - equivocal
 - amorphous
- 36 Find out the sentence in which the adverbial phrase cannot be replaced by an adverb
- He answered in a very rude manner
 - The arrow fell on this spot
 - I took him on the strength of your recommendation
 - you can buy it in all places
- 37 Identify the odd among the following
- armchair
 - postman
 - nobleman
 - windmill
- 38 The antonym of the word 'abuse' is
- oppress
 - applaud
 - sagacious
 - revish
- 39 The synonym of the word 'reprove' is
- chasten
 - condemnation
 - impel
 - approve
- 40 Match the idioms in List I with those in List II. The correct answer is given in (a), (b), (c) or (d) given below the lists

- | List I | | List II | |
|----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| (A) backed up | | 1 culminated in | |
| (B) led up to | | 2 distressed | |
| (C) trumped up | | 3 supported | |
| (D) cut up | | 4 fabricated | |
| A | B | C | D |
| (a) 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| (b) 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| (c) 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| (d) 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
- 41 He is your equal _____ merit
- in virtue of
 - by reason of
 - in point of
 - in spite of
- 42 Pick up the correct sentence
- Open page 50
 - I believe God
 - Your conduct admit of no excuse
 - The prize was hotly competed
- 43 Point out the incorrect spelling
- occasion
 - asphyxia
 - highten
 - expatriate
- 44 The sentence 'she cried with sorrow that he was dead' is
- assertive sentence
 - imperative sentence
 - exclamatory sentence
 - none of the above
- 45 The clause 'when evening came' is
- an adjective clause
 - an adverb clause
 - a noun clause
 - none of the above

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|--------|--------|---------|
| 1 (c) | 2 (c) | 3 (b) |
| 4 (a) | 5 (b) | 6 (c) |
| 7 (a) | 8 (d) | 9 (c) |
| 10 (c) | 11 (a) | 12 DBAC |
| 13 (c) | 14 (c) | 15 (a) |
| 16 (b) | 17 (c) | 18 (b) |
| 19 (d) | 20 (a) | 21 (b) |
| 22 (c) | 23 (b) | 24 (a) |
| 25 (b) | 26 (c) | 27 (d) |
| 28 (a) | 29 (c) | 30 (d) |
| 31 (d) | 32 (c) | 33 (c) |
| 34 (a) | 35 (b) | 36 (b) |
| 37 (d) | 38 (b) | 39 (b) |
| 40 (b) | 41 (b) | 42 (c) |
| 43 (c) | 44 (d) | 45 (c) |

How Well have You Read CM?

The following questions are based on the June '99 issue of *The Competition Master*. They will help you revise current affairs. If you do not know certain answers, do make an effort to locate them in our last issue.

1. Ehud Barak has recently been elected as Prime Minister of which of the following countries?

- a) Jordan b) Saudi Arabia
c) Algeria d) Israel

2. Name the predecessor of the Internet funded by the US Department of Defence:

- a) LOCALNET b) TCP/IP
c) ARPANET
d) World Wide Web

3. The Chandigarh Rose Garden is named after a former President of India. Name the President:

- a) V.V. Giri b) Zakir Hussain
c) Rajendra Prasad d) Zail Singh

4. The PSLV-C2 launched on May 26, 1999, placed in orbit the satellites of two other countries. Name the countries:

- a) Japan and Belgium
b) Germany and South Korea
c) Germany and Spain
d) South Korea and Belgium

5. Coolers is a brand name for:

- a) a new soft drink by Pepsi
b) an air conditioner by Carrier
c) sandals by Liberty
d) air coolers by Sanden

6. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has been formed by:

- a) BJP and its allies
b) Sharad Pawar and his allies
c) The Communist Party
d) Congress and its allies

7. Mahendra Choudhry has been elected Prime Minister of which of the following countries?

- a) Maldives b) Nepal
c) Bangladesh d) Fiji

8. In which year was the Shimla agreement signed between India and

Pakistan?

- a) 1970 b) 1971
c) 1972 d) 1973

9. The G-15 summit was held in February '99 at which of the following place?

- a) Jamaica b) Mauritius
c) Seychelles d) India

10. The SAFF Football Tournament was won by:

- a) Bangladesh b) Sri Lanka
c) India d) Nepal

11. According to the latest NSS data, which is the country's most literate State?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
b) Mizoram c) Karnataka
d) Kerala

12. The World Environment Day is observed on which of the following dates?

- a) April 20 b) May 26
c) June 5 d) July 15

13. India started Operation Vijay to evict the intruders from Pakistan, on which of the following dates?

- a) May 6, 1999 b) May 8, 1999
c) May 10, 1999 d) June 3, 1999

14. What is the capital of Uzbekistan?

- a) Moscow b) Ashkabad
c) Ulan Bator d) Tashkent

15. One of the major private power projects in India was inaugurated on May 25, 1999. Name its location?

- a) Dabhol b) Ahmednagar
c) Surat d) Mumbai

16. What is PSLV-C2?

- a) a satellite b) a space station
c) a spacecraft d) a launch vehicle

17. Who is the winner of the French Open men's title, held in Paris on June 6, 1999?

- a) Jeff Tarango
b) Mahesh Bhupathi
c) Andrei Medvedev
d) Andre Agassi

18. Who is the recipient of the B.D. Goenka Award for Excellence in journalism for 1998?

- a) M.J. Akbar b) Hari Jaisingh
c) H.K. Dua d) Arun Shourie

19. The book, 'A New Deal for Asia' is written by which of the following?

- a) Paul Krugman
b) Mahatir Mohammad
c) Amartya Sen d) Amit Bhaduri

20. Name the Indian film director who won the Golden Camera Award at the Cannes International Film Festival this year:

- a) Mira Nair b) Murali Nair
c) Deepa Mehta d) Shekhar Kapur

21. Name the first State in India to use Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in all its constituencies?

- a) Haryana b) Pondicherry
c) Delhi d) Goa

22. Name the cricketer who has become the highest scorer in Indian cricket in a World Cup match, surpassing Kapil Dev's highest of 175 in 1983?

- a) Saurav Ganguly
b) Sachin Tendulkar
c) Rahul Dravid
d) Mohd Azharuddin

23. Name the country to which the Miss Universe 1999 belongs to.

- a) Nigeria b) Botswana
c) South Africa d) Trinidad

24. Who among the following has been conferred the title of 'Hero of Batalik'?

- a) Mariapan Saravanan
b) Amit Shukla
c) A. Sivakrishnan
d) Shiv Prasad Singh

(Answers will appear in our September issue.)

(Answers to July 1999 Quiz)

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. b | 2. d | 3. c | 4. a |
| 5. c | 6. b | 7. a | 8. a |
| 9. d | 10. b | 11. b | 12. c |
| 13. d | 14. d | 15. c | 16. c |
| 17. d | 18. b | 19. a | 20. c |

The last 12 months have been a period of ups and downs for India. The high of nuclear tests of last year gave way to another high, the bus journey of the Prime Minister to Lahore. India gloated over how its nuclear tests had been kept a secret from the rest of the world. Political leaders played their game of Snakes and Ladders and toppled yet another government. By May 1999, the complacency gave way to tragedy as it was discovered that Pakistan had sent intruders across the Line of Control to Kargil. Everything else started looking small in comparison as the nation saw coffins returning from the front, carrying bodies of brave soldiers who had laid down their lives trying to recapture strategic heights.

In death, the brave soldiers accomplished another thing: they gave a sense of unity and pride to a divided and uncaring nation. India was not simply a nation of film stars going berserk as they went hunting, or cricket stars who were more interested in signing sponsorships than perfecting their game, or of callous politicians playing their toppling games, or even of spoilt young brats of rich people who could shoot a poor ice cream vendor if they were not able to get the flavour they wanted. We had seen all these things in the past 12 months and wondered at the hollowness of society.

We sum up the events of the last 12 months with a silent tribute to those who have restored our faith in our country once again.

Round-up of National Affairs

**Pakistan, Lahore,
Kargil: A tale of
Hope and Despair**

On February 20, 1999, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee took a historic bus journey to Pakistan, in an effort to unravel 50 years of confrontation between the two countries. Accompanied by a delegation of eminent personalities, the trip was termed as a defining moment in South Asian history as it was an opportunity for bitter enemies to become friends. In terms of importance, it could equal the Middle East peace talks started by Anwar Sadat and Yitzhak Rabin. The journey was also significant, since both countries had exploded their nuclear devices less than one year back. It appeared that the two countries could now

talk from their position of strength, and, even though they had acquired deadly weapons, could still talk peace.

The Lahore declaration signed by the leaders of the two countries stated that they would intensify efforts to resolve all issues, including that of Jammu and Kashmir. They decided not to interfere in each other's internal affairs, intensify composite dialogue process, implement the 1972 Shimla agreement and work towards confidence-building measures.

The "bus diplomacy", as the journey was referred to, generated a feeling of warmth and *bonhomie*. At last, the distant neighbours seemed to be coming closer. But it was too good to be true. Shortly after the Lahore declaration was agreed upon, Pakistan's PM

Nawaz Sharif asserted that talks with India would have to be suspended if the Kashmir issue was not resolved within a specified time frame. More serious, even while the two countries talked friendship, Pakistan had undertaken a plan to infiltrate the Line of Control (LoC). Armed intruders took over Indian army bunkers and occupied crucial peaks in the Kargil sector in an attempt to cut off the Srinagar-Leh road. There was a major failure on the part of Indian intelligence agencies and the army and the infiltration was discovered only in May, 1999, when they began pounding the crucial highway. The worst conflict between the neighbours since the 1971 war commenced. A confused political response showed that India had been

caught unawares.

On May 8, 1999, India launched Operation Vijay to dislodge the intruders. On May 26, the Indian Air Force started air strikes. India lost two fighter planes, a Mi-17 helicopter and casualties rose by the day. Several peaks were recaptured but many others remained and the "war-like situation" continued. International opinion favoured India but Pakistan was undeterred. Its Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz visited India against the backdrop of his country returning the mutilated bodies of tortured Indian soldiers but there was no positive outcome of the talks. The army prepared for the long haul as it was unlikely that the intruders would vacate Indian territory on their own. The world watched with bated breath as the two nuclear powers danced on the brink of war.

Toppling Games

Right since its inception the Vajpayee government has been plagued by demands of different coalition partners. It survived the crisis caused by rise in onion prices—by October 1998, onions were selling at Rs 60 per kg—but could not survive its own allies. The functioning of the government was severely restricted as it was more concerned with keeping its supporting parties happy. AIADMK leader Jayalalitha was in the news often, each time with a fresh set of demands for the Central government. The coalition seemed doomed right from the beginning.

It was hardly a surprise when the BJP coalition experiment failed in the country.

leading to the resignation of the 13-month old Vajpayee government on April 17, 1999, after losing the vote of confidence by just one vote in the Lok Sabha (269-270). The vote was necessitated by withdrawal of support by AIADMK, the mercurial pre-poll ally. As the government fell, the nation saw the level to which the politicians of the country could stoop in order to corner power. Sonia Gandhi went around begging for support but could not get the 272 MPs to support her, the number required to form the government. After hectic parleying, the Opposition realised that it was easier to topple a government but far more difficult to form one.

Subsequently, the 12th Lok Sabha was dissolved by the President on April 26, following his assessment that there was no possibility of a government with a reasonable prospect of stability. The BJP government was asked to continue in office as caretaker government till a new govern-

ment could be formed after elections.

The 12th Lok Sabha had the shortest term with 412 days. It had been constituted on March 10, 1998.

The calculations of the Congress went haywire as it was not only unable to form a government but faced a split within its own ranks. On May 15, 1999, three senior leaders—Sharad Pawar, P.A. Sangma and Tariq Anwar—questioned Sonia Gandhi's bid to become Prime Minister. She was not born an Indian, so should she become the PM? They demanded that only natural born citizens should be able to hold high offices in India. An upset Sonia Gandhi resigned but allowed herself to be persuaded to continue as Congress chief after 8 days during which Congress workers organised fasts and attempted self-immolations. The three leaders were sacked from the Congress and formed their own party, the Nationalist Congress. The BJP and its allies launched their "National Democratic Alli-

ance" to contest the forthcoming elections on a common manifesto under the leadership of Atal Behari Vajpayee.



Relations with other countries

USA: The Pokhran tests took a toll on India's relations with other countries. India's diplomatic effort consisted of a damage-control exercise but was not entirely successful. USA had imposed sanctions and barred several Indian companies from having any links with US companies. Several scientists and professionals had been asked to leave the country. Some of the sanctions were partly removed by the Clinton Administration on November 7, 1998, on the eve of Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif's visit to USA. Talks were held on January 31, 1999 but the remaining sanctions were not eased. USA was keen that India sign the CTBT and the NPT. While India later said that it was willing to sign the CTBT, it still refused to go along with the NPT.

USA also had a quarrel with India over trade matters. The Dispute Settlement Panel of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) ruled against India in the case filed by the USA seeking removal of restrictions on imports due to balance of payments considerations. The country had complained that restrictions by India on import of agriculture, textile and industrial products violated WTO norms.

China: Relations with China had taken a turn for the worse in the aftermath of the Pokhran tests, with Defence

Minister George Fernandes calling China as "enemy number one". Prime Minister Vajpayee had written to US President Clinton citing a Chinese threat. China responded by denying that its nuclear weapons posed a threat to India's security. It said it never posed a threat to India and was hurt by the statement that China's nuclear weapons threatened India. The visit of Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh to China in June, 1999, however, strengthened relations and paved the way for a mutual dialogue.

Russia: On December 20, 1998, Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov visited India and the two countries decided to move towards a "strategic partnership". Seven agreements were signed covering extradition, consular convention, mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, military cooperation upto 2010, air services, a joint document for development of trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation. He advocated a strategic alliance involving India, Russia and China to ensure regional peace and security. On May 18, 1999 External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh visited Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Russia and France. Russia had been upset because though India had criticised NATO action in Kosovo, it had later toned down its stridency and, also, it did not support a Russian resolution at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, in order to keep on the right side of USA. The visit helped convergence of views between the two countries on the Kosovo crisis. Russia also committed itself on a strategic partnership with

Snippets

1. The government launched the Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) card scheme on March 31, 1999. PIO card holders can travel in India without a visa and would get all the facilities which were being extended to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in economic, financial, educational and other fields. They can buy immovable property, barring agricultural or plantation land.

2. The government decided to set up the second National Commission on Labour to review and frame the labour policy in view of the changed economic and technological environment, better industrial climate and increased productivity.

3. The government announced an increase in the price of rice and wheat sold through the Public Distribution System (PDS) to the poor. The increase was from Rs. 100 to Rs. 110 per quintal. On February 3, 1999 it announced the increase in prices of other food grains.

India.

Sri Lanka's President Chandrika Bandarnaike Kumaratunga visited India. During her visit, on December 29, 1998, the two countries signed a Free Trade Agreement, giving a push start to the concept of South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA). The agreement came into force on March 1, 1999. The two countries allowed duty-free entry of specified goods from each other and it was decided that tariff levels would be brought down to zero in three years. This was the first free trade agreement that India entered into with a non-Less Developed country. It already has such an agreement with Nepal. Subsequently, India decided not to allow duty-free import of tea and rubber from Sri Lanka, and the agreement suffered a major setback, since these items made up 80 per cent of imports from the country.

Economic and Business News

□ TELCO launched its dream car, *Indica*, the first true Indian car to be completely developed indigenously. The body was designed by IDEA of Italy. The project cost Rs 1,700 crore and was the cheapest car project ever attempted. The car rolled out in a record time of 31 months. The car was instantly successful and attracted record bookings from customers.

□ Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd (VSNL) was the top foreign exchange earner during 1997-98. Its net foreign exchange earnings during the year was Rs 2268 crore. The

highest growth in exports was achieved by computer software industry with an 88% increase over the previous year. It also achieved the highest growth in forex earnings (132%) followed by drugs and pharmaceuticals, gems and jewellery, which also registered a growth of more than 100%.

□ According to World Bank statistics, Indian economy is the fifth largest in the world in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP). The economies ahead of it were: USA, China, Japan and Germany. However, in conventional terms of Gross National Product (GNP), India's economy is ranked 13th.

□ The Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRAI) announced new telecom rates effective from April 1, 1999, more in alignment with global rates. STD rates were reduced by up to 45% and ISD rates up to 55%. Monthly rentals were increased. Rentals for cellular phones were increased from Rs 156 to Rs 600 per month but airtime price reduced to Rs 6 per minute.

□ Commerce Minister Ramakrishna Hegde launched the India Brand Equity Fund (IBEF) with an initial corpus of Rs 103 crore, with the primary objective to make the "Made in India" label a symbol of quality all over the world.

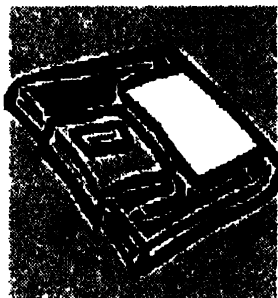
□ The Ninth Plan (1997-2002) was modified and approved by the government. The target of annual economic growth rate was scaled down from 7 per cent to 6.5 per cent because of the slowdown of the economy. It envisages a growth rate of 7 per cent for the next three years of the Plan,

considered unrealistic because of the slowdown.

□ Non Resident Indians (NRIs) invested Rs 7400 crore in the country during 1991-98. FDI approvals were Rs 8163 crore between 1991 and 1998, which means about 90% of them had translated into actual projects.

□ Indian companies went overboard while latching on to the Cricket World Cup '99. Huge campaigns were created and schemes offered to consumers. The Indian team did not even reach the semi-finals but the companies had a field day in promoting their products.

Fixing the Y2K bug



The world scrambled to fix the Y2K problem, the problem caused by the fact that computers used a two-digit field to record the year. When the year changes to 2000, the computer would just show '00' and mistake the date to be 1900 and not 2000. It was expected that many financial and electronic systems would grind to a halt as the year changed.

India reaped a bonanza because of the problem. Its qualified software manpower found easy jobs in companies. Some Rs 2,000 crore was being spent to tide over the crisis.

Disasters

Earlier, the monsoons of 1998 had taken a terrible toll. Many areas in West Bengal and Assam were inundated for over a month. Some 2,000 people died in flood in UP, Bihar, Bengal and Assam and property worth Rs 6,000 crore destroyed. In UP alone, 7 lakh homes were destroyed, killing 3,280 people and 87,000 animals. The loss of crops was estimated to be Rs 100 crore. The Kaziranga National Park was inundated and 17 endangered rhinoceros died there. It was a national disaster and the army had to be called out in many areas.

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Defence

On December 20, 1998, the government sacked Navy Chief Vishnu Bhagwat for "deliberate defiance" of the system of Cabinet control over the defence forces. He became the first defence services Chief to have been thrown out of his job. Bhagwat then made allegations against Defence Minister George Fernandes and the sacking snowballed into a major controversy with the Opposition parties criticising the decision and demanding that he be reinstated. AIADMK

□ In order to check the abuse of public interest litigation, the Supreme Court ruled that the public must be compensated if a project meant to benefit it became costlier or got delayed due to the court's interim order.

□ The Supreme Court ordered a ban on registration of private non-commercial vehicles without Euro-II emission norms, in the National Capital Region (NCR) from April 1, 2000, to check the growing pollution. Besides this, registration of only 1500 diesel and petrol vehicles a month, from June 1, 1999 till March 31, 2000, was allowed, if these conformed to Euro-I norms. The government had earlier notified that Euro-II norms would be applicable by 2005 but with the judgement, vehicle manufacturers would have to advance production of Euro-II vehicles.

□ The Supreme Court ruled that both mother and father would be treated as natural guardian of their minor child, under the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act. In separate petitions, author Geeta Hariharan and social activist Vandana Shiva had challenged Section 6(A) of the Act which recognised only the father as a child's natural guardian.

□ The Supreme Court acquitted 19 of the 26 accused in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination, and commuted the death sentence of three to life imprisonment. Capital punishment was upheld on the four accused: Nalini, Murugan, Santhan and Arivu.

□ The Supreme Court ruled that each incident of sexual harassment at the workplace is a violation of the fundamental right to gender equality and the right to life and liberty. It said that physical contact was not an essential factor to charge a male colleague with molestation.

leader Jayalalitha demanded the resignation of Defence Minister Fernandes and made it an issue to withdraw support to the Vajpayee government, which ultimately lost the vote of confidence in Parliament.

On April 11, 1999, India successfully tested the sophisticated *Agni-II* Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM), showing that it had proven nuclear and missile capabilities. It demonstrated the launch capability and the fact that it could be moved anywhere, including rugged areas.

An armed forces tribunal, for speedy redressal of grievances of Army, Navy and Air

Force personnel was planned to be set up by the Law Ministry. It would be presided over by either a retired High Court Chief Justice or a retired Supreme Court judge. The tribunal would have six benches, with the principal bench located in New Delhi. The need for such a tribunal had been felt for long because of the high incidence of service personnel seeking redressal from the courts.

State of the Economy

The news on the economic front for the past year has been discouraging. The economy

was reeling under a severe slowdown. Companies reported dismal results and the government found itself in an unenviable position where its revenues were stagnant but expenditure was out of control. Brave words by Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha failed to perk up markets.

The Economic Survey showed a gloomy picture. The results of the corporate sector showed that profits had declined in all but a few sectors. The survey thus called for fiscal discipline and a second round of reforms.

It said that capital markets had remained subdued during the period, infrastructure performance had declined and the Central government finances continued to be under stress: the total expenditure was an uncontrolled Rs 267,927 crore in 1998-99, which was expected to increase to Rs 309,044 crore next year. The primary deficit was Rs 16,025 crore and the fiscal deficit Rs 91,025 crore. These were expected to increase to Rs 16,955 crore and Rs 104,955 crore respectively. Government spending was out of control, leading to the mess in government finances. Despite some signs of economic recovery, severe fiscal problems remained; among them: the burgeoning fiscal deficit, revenue deficit, unproductive expenditure and unsustainable subsidies.

The only silver lining was agriculture and allied sectors, which was expected to grow at 5.3%, boosting economic growth rate to an estimated 5.8% during 1998-99. Growth in trade, hotels, transport and communications accelerated from 5.7% in 1997-98 to 6.8% in 1998-99. Growth in manu-

facturing slipped to 5.7%.

Budget 1999-2000: The budget, unveiled on February 27, 1999, was seen as an average budget which imposed surcharges and slapped a flat cess on all imports. It was setback to the reforms process; leaving the economy more protected than it was before. It appeared that despite the talk of reforms, successive finance ministers were simply unable to shed their socialist, Nehruvian thinking of the past. The two main suggestions of the Economic Survey—fiscal discipline and a second round of reforms—were quietly ignored.

The total expenditure in 1998-99 went up by a whopping Rs 50,000 crore over last year, as a result of which the fiscal deficit was 6.5% of GDP against the target of 5.6%. The fiscal deficit target has been kept at 6% for next year, though a change in budget accounting helped the government to show the deficit as an impressive 4.4%.

Excise and customs duties were simplified. The number of excise duties were reduced from 11 to 3, with a mean rate of 16%. To ensure that there was no shortfall in tax collections, the Finance Minister put a surcharge to keep excise tariffs on certain goods like automobiles at the existing rate of 40%. The mean rate of 16% was the same advised by Kautilya as *shadbhaga*, which means a sixth or 16%.

As part of the package to boost housing, the budget proposed that interest paid on loans for self-occupied property be exempt from tax up to a ceiling of Rs 75,000, the current ceiling being Rs 30,000. Housing finance companies would be taxed on their actual

income, not the amount that accrued to them. Companies purchasing houses for their employees would be entitled to a depreciation rate of 40% up from 20%.

A gold deposit scheme was introduced, under which a person could deposit his gold in a bank and obtain a nominal interest bearing bond. Jewellery was exempted from this scheme, so only people holding gold biscuits could avail of it. If the scheme does well, gold imports would be reduced and there would be a saving of foreign exchange. But the scheme was seen as flawed and unlikely to create any impact.

The defence budget was modestly hiked by Rs 4,494 crore to Rs 45,694 crore for 1999-2000, representing a 11% increase over last year. Wide ranging concessions were granted to the information technology sector.

Ignored for long, the agricultural sector received some attention this time. A national movement for watershed development with the active involvement of *gram panchayats*, local groups and NGOs would be launched during the year. A watershed development fund with matching Central assistance would be set up with NABARD to cover 100 priority districts during the next three years. Allocation for the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) was raised by Rs 500 crore to Rs 3,500 crore. Kisan credit cards would be extended to 20 lakh farmers, up from 6 lakh farmers. A provision of Rs 168 crore for recapitalisation of regional rural banks was made. The year 1999-2000 was declared as the 'year of the *gram sabha*' and Rs 50 crore marked for de-

veloping wasteland and degraded land for the use of people belonging to the backward classes under the supervision of *gram panchayats*.

Recognising the need to control government expenditure, the Finance Minister eliminated four secretarial posts. Sinha also proposed to constitute an expenditure finance commission for reducing the government's administrative structure. The fiscal deficit for 1999-2000 was expected to be Rs 89,713 crore. The total expenditure was estimated to be Rs 2,84,003 crore and net revenue receipts Rs 1,73,205 crore. After taking into account Rs 10,000 crore from disinvestment of equity in public sector undertakings, the fiscal deficit of Rs 89,713 crore is left, which is very high.

Recovery in sight: After the prolonged slowdown, things started looking up in the economy. Corporates reported better results in the second half of 1999. Good news also came from the agricultural front. Foodgrain production was estimated at 200.88 million

Science and Technology

India took a step towards achieving self-reliance in space technology with the successful launch of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C2) from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on May 26, 1999. It placed three satellites in orbit—IRS-P4 (Oceansat) and two micro satellites from Korea and Germany (Kitsat-3 and DLR-Tubsat). These were the first foreign satellites launched by an Indian rocket. India could now break into the global satellite launch market as it had demonstrated its capability. Other areas could be exploited as well, including remote sensing imagery, satellite systems and communication satellites.



tonnes for 1998-99. Agricultural production had dipped to 194 million tonnes in 1997-98. Wheat production for the year was put at 70.63 million tonnes and rice at 84.48 million tonnes, against the figures of 65.90 and 82.30 million tonnes respectively, for the previous year.

A buoyant stock market and improved corporate profitability added to hopes that the recession was lifting. But continuing political uncer-

Controversies

After almost five years, the Supreme Court allowed construction of the Narmada dam. Construction had been stopped after a stay order had been granted in June 1995, following a petition by Medha Patkar's Narmada Bachao Andolan. The Court also allowed raising the dam's height to 85 metres from the present 80.3 metres.

Deepa Mehta's film, *Fire*, which dealt with a love affair between two women, immediately offended the sensibilities of the moral police. Erosion of values, degradation of culture

and other reasons were cited to stop screening of the film. Intellectuals, on the other hand, organised candle light marches in support of the film, and defended freedom of expression. The Shiv Sena organised attacks on theatres where the film was running. Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting M.A. Naqvi sent the film back to the Censor Board for a review, and it was cleared once again. The protests died down.

Since 1996, successive governments have tried to

pass the Women's Reservation Bill—that would guarantee 33 per cent women as members of Parliament—but have failed. The BJP government too faced the same predicament as the Bill was scuttled once again. Many MPs and Ministers from backward castes and tribes for whom justice was being demanded and insisted on caste-based reservation. Janta Dal MP Sharda Devi released a statement saying that the bill would ensure that the backward castes and tribes would be represented in the Parliament.

tainty and the border conflict with Pakistan could still take its toll on an already battered economy.

Reforms and liberalisation

□ The reforms process in the country was virtually at a

SCANDALS

On May 10, 1999, the Madras High Court allowed the framing of charges against AIADMK leader Jayalalitha and 10 others in the TANSI land deal case. Charges had already been framed against her in the Rs 10-crore colour TV scam and the Rs 66 crore disproportionate wealth case. She had pleaded that the judge was inclined towards the prosecution, but the Court rejected the plea. The other accused in the case were Sasikala Natarajan and T.R. Sreenivasan, former managing director of the Tamil Nadu Small Industries Corporation (TANSI). Land was allegedly purchased from TANSI by the former Chief Minister and her friend at prices far below market prices, through manipulation. The Tamil Nadu government constituted three special courts to try corruption cases against Jayalalitha; she appealed to the Supreme Court but her appeal was dismissed. The Tamil Nadu government had allocated 46 corruption cases against her and her former colleagues and on April 30, a notification had been issued to set up the special courts. In February, the BJP government, in an effort to appease her, had transferred three cases against her to the sessions court but the Supreme Court overturned this decision also.

The special court set up for the multicore securities scandal that rocked financial markets in 1991-92, convicted Hiten Dajal and 8 others in the case relating to loss of Rs 373 crore to Canbank Financial Services (Canfin).

The Andhra Pradesh police uncovered an adoption racket where several agencies, including NGOs, were involved in buying infant girls from the Lambada tribals for Rs 2,000 and selling them to foreign buyers for Rs 2 lakh. Following the disclosure, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu instructed the police to review all orphanages in Hyderabad.

The Bofors bribery scandal laboured on. The President finally gave his sanction to prosecute former External Affairs Minister Madhavsinh Solanki for obstructing probe into the scandal. He had delivered a letter to the Swiss Foreign Affairs Ministry in 1992, allegedly advising the Swiss government to go slow in the investigation. Solanki had admitted that he had delivered the letter and resigned from his post.

The London scandal did not end. On August 11, 1998, the British government issued a statement that Minister Rishi Gajendran had been found guilty of providing false information to the British government about the Bofors scandal. It was the first time a minister had been found guilty of providing false information to the British government.

standstill during the year with a minority government unable to muster support to affect the necessary legislation. One casualty was the *Insurance Regulatory (IRA) Bill*, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha in its winter session, but was referred to a Joint Select Committee for further discussions. The non-Congress parties opposed the Bill, but the support of the BJP and the Congress ensured that it was tabled. Later, the Congress had doubts over some clauses of the Bill and insisted that a parliamentary panel look into all the provisions.

□ A new telecom policy was announced to boost private participation in the sector. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was assigned an arbitration role, review of opening of international long distance telephony to private competition by 2004 and corporatisation of the telecom department by 2001. Existing contracts for cellular and basic operators on prevailing license fee would continue.

□ Commerce Minister R.K. Hegde announced a modified export-import policy for 1999-2002. The government put 894 items in open general license, while 414 items can be imported under Special Import License. Only 667 items were left on the restricted list. The duty exemption scheme was made more user-friendly, services were given export house status, and Export Processing Zones were converted to Free Trade Zones. The policy was a step to liberalise foreign trade and remove restrictions.

□ The government decided to allow companies, with 80 per cent Indian equity, free uplinking facility on C-band.

Uplinking through VSNL was no longer mandatory for broadcasting companies and thus the monopoly of VSNL to provide uplinking facilities, was brought to an end.

□ The government cleared the privatisation of Indian Airlines by allowing it to raise funds from the capital markets through an Initial Public Offering (IPO). The restructuring proposal, based on the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee, was cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

□ The government cleared corporatisation of five airports at Mumbai, New Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Bangalore, so that they could go in for joint ventures to upgrade their facilities.

□ On January 5, 1999, the government promulgated an ordinance to allow companies to buy back their shares. Besides allowing buyback of 25% of the paid up capital and free reserves, the ordinance allowed freedom to companies to issue sweat equity, make inter-corporate investments and extend loans without government permission.

The States

Punjab celebrated 300 years of the *Khalsa Panth* from April 13, 1999. The focus of the tercentenary celebrations was on Anandpur Sahib. Lakhs of pilgrims visited the city, which was given a facelift. The Golden Temple was spruced up with a new coat of gold. Domestic politics in the State, however, continued to be as ac-

Development News

□ The UNICEF report, "State of the World's Children—1999" said that India would be the world's most illiterate nation by 2000. It pointed out that India allocates just 3% of its GNP on education and the projected allocation of 6.1% has never been achieved. The country has the maximum number of school dropouts, while two-thirds of the total number of illiterates in the country were women.

□ A study by the Planning Commission showed that States with the highest per capita incomes were spending the least proportion of their domestic product on education. Punjab spent 2.63 per cent of its domestic product on education in 1996-97, while the figures for other States were: Maharashtra 2.93%, UP 3.75%, West Bengal 3.18%. Other States with less domestic product, spent comparatively more: the figures for Kerala were 6.32%, Assam 6.6% and Tripura 12.13%. As a whole, India

spends 3.8% of its GDP on education.

□ The National Literacy Mission (NLM) made 72.56 million people functionally literate. A sum of Rs 531.15 crore was spent under the schemes of the NLM. It aims to make 100 million people functionally literate in the age group of 15-35 years, in a time-bound manner.

□ The National Sample Survey, 1997 pointed out that Mizoram had replaced Kerala as India's most literate State. Mizoram's literacy stood at 95 per cent against Kerala's 93 per cent. The all-India average improved to 62 per cent from 52.2 per cent in 1991. Kerala had long held the position of being the most literate State but bad economic policies had pushed it down into poverty. Bihar with 49% literacy and Orissa with 51%, were the least literate States in the country.

rimorous as ever. Senior leaders of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal and Gurcharan Singh Tohra, fought with each other. Tohra was removed as president of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) but on May 30, 1999 he took over as president of a new Akali Dal.

On February 12, 1999, President's rule was imposed in Bihar because of the declining law and order situation in the State. The BJP could get the Lok Sabha to ratify the decision as the Congress put a road block and it could not be approved in the Rajya Sabha where the ruling coalition was in a minority. As a result, on March 8, President's rule was revoked and the Rabri Devi government reinstated the next day. This was the first time in the history of India that Central rule had been revoked. The political drama hid the sordid state of affairs. On March 18, 1999, 34 Bhumihars were killed in Senari. Caste toll in Bihar went up to 80 in the first ten weeks of 1999 alone.

The declining law and order situation in Maharashtra forced the State to

promulgate an ordinance against organised crime. The Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Ordinance, 1999 came into force after the President signed it on February 12, 1999. It permitted the police to take action against those involved in organised crime as also to record threats issued on telephone or mobile phones and use them as evidence against the criminals.

The longest serving Chief Minister of Orissa, J B Patnaik, resigned under directions of Congress President Sonia Gandhi. The party wanted to own moral responsibility for the spate of violent killings and attacks on Christians in the State. Giridhar Gamang took charge as the new Chief Minister of the State.

Elections were held in Goa on June 6, 1999 and Congress was elected back to power, winning 21 out of 40 Assembly seats. Luizinho Faleiro was sworn in as the Chief Minister of the State. The BJP increased its tally from 4 to 10. Goa became the first State to use Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) for all the seats in Assembly elections. Earlier, on November 26, 1998,

the government led by Wilfred D'Souza of Goa Rajiv Congress had collapsed following resignation of three ministers.

Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Gegong Apang, who had been at the helm of affairs for 19 years, was voted out of office when his Arunachal Congress lost a vote of confidence in the State assembly on January 18, 1999. Former Forests Minister Mukut Mithi was sworn in as the fourth Chief Minister of the State.

Assembly elections were held in four States—Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and Mizoram—on November 25, 1998. The results showed a verdict in favour of the Congress. It won a two-third majority in Rajasthan and Delhi and a simple majority in Madhya Pradesh. In Mizoram, the MNF-led alliance defeated the Congress. Digvijay Singh was retained as Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh for the second time, Delhi Pradesh Congress President Sheila Dixit was sworn in as the new Chief Minister, Ashok Gehlot became Chief Minister in Rajasthan and MNF President Zoramthanga took over in Mizoram.

In Nagaland, on Novem-

ber 19, 1998 the government announced a unilateral cease fire and suspension of operations against the militant group, National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) for a period of two months beginning November 15. It was hoped that the NSCN would accept the cease fire and join the peace process.

Legislation

The Patents Amendment Bill, 1998, was passed in the Rajya Sabha during the winter session, despite the opposition of Left and JD members. Differences surfaced within the ruling BJP as well as in the Congress and the Bill could not be passed in the Lok Sabha. On January 5, 1999, the Union Cabinet approved the promulgation of the ordinance amending the Patents Act 1970 on the lines of the Patents (Amendment) Bill 1998. The Bill was later passed in the Lok Sabha as well, and would allow exclusive marketing rights for foreign pharmaceuticals and agro chemicals. The WTO had given April 19 as the deadline for amending the patents legislation.

A World in Trouble

By 1999 the relative calm of the 1990s had given way to a sea of trouble all across the world. The NATO alliance went to war against Yugoslavia to stop the ethnic cleansing of Albanians undertaken by the Serbs. In Asia, the economic turmoil resulted in loss of jobs and great hardship which had given way to social and political instability as well. Indonesia and Malaysia witnessed civil unrest and rioting. Nuclear non-proliferation took a backseat as disclosures in USA showed that China had stolen nuclear secrets for several years. India and Pakistan confronted each other over Kashmir, while Russia moved on from crisis to crisis. The USA was obsessed with a scandal that impeached President Clinton; the country was shocked when its embassies were bombed by terrorists. The whole world seemed to be unstable in the last 12 months.

Round-up of International Affairs

Fallout of the Nuclear Tests

On November 13, 1998, the UN General Assembly approved a draft resolution rebuking India and Pakistan's underground tests conducted in May, 1998. There were objections from both countries but the resolution was adopted by a vote of 98 to 6, with 31 abstentions, all from non-aligned countries. The resolution was sponsored by Australia, Canada and New Zealand. India termed the resolution as 'coercive' and put forth its own proposal asking the five nuclear weapon States to take immediate steps to reduce the risk of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons. The resolution got wide support and was adopted by 68 votes to 44, with 12 abstentions.

India lashed out at the hypocrisy of the nuclear weapon States—while they asked the rest of the world to show nuclear restraint, they were unwilling to reduce their nuclear arsenals.

Earlier, on August 4, 1998, Prime Minister Vajpayee had revealed the country's nuclear

doctrine, which had three main elements. These were: a) that India will maintain a minimum but credible nuclear deterrent, b) that it will not use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear countries, and c) that it will not be the first to use nuclear weapons against nuclear weapon countries.

Asia

The economic turmoil transformed into political crisis in many Asian countries. President Suharto fought for survival in Indonesia as disclosures of corruption and nepotism were exposed; the country also faced social unrest and violence. In Malaysia, people saw their former deputy Prime Minister go on trial for corruption and adultery.

Malaysia watched with bated breath as its former deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim went on trial on charges of corruption and sexual misconduct. The deputy Prime Minister was earlier being groomed as a successor to Prime Minister Mahatir Mohammad, but had fallen foul with the powerful leader. He had advocated the IMF's tight monetary policy and budget cuts to tide over the economic crisis but Mahatir disagreed. The differences led to Anwar making a bid for power and Mahatir striking back with a vengeance. Anwar was jailed and the trial against him was covered extensively by the Western media. He was found

The Kosovo Crisis

The world's attention was riveted on Kosovo, a province that lies between Serbia and Albania. Once an autonomous federal unit of Yugoslavia, it had been stripped away of its autonomy by the Serbian government. The struggle for independence resulted in brutal oppression and killings by the Serbs. More than 2,60,000 people were driven from their homes and ethnic cleansing had been going on. The Serbian security forces ruthlessly suppressed the ethnic-Albanian rebellion and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). This drew the attention of the West, which threatened President Milosevic to stop the ethnic cleansing or face NATO strikes. When efforts failed, NATO forces launched a ferocious attack against Yugoslavia on March 24, 1999. More than 20,000 bombs were slammed on the country. It took 72 days and lakhs of Albanians fled to neighbouring countries. A peace deal was finally arrived which resulted in withdrawal of the Serb security forces from Kosovo and some 50,000 NATO peacekeeping troops were inducted. The world heaved a sigh of relief as the peace agreement was arrived at, ending a bloody conflict which had taken a heavy toll in terms of human lives and sufferings. ▲

India's Neighbours

PAKISTAN: Former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto found herself in hot water: she was found guilty of corruption and given a five-year jail sentence by the Lahore High Court on April 15, 1999. Her husband, Asif Ali Zardari was also given a similar sentence. A fine of \$ 8.6 billion was imposed on the couple and they were disqualified as members of Parliament. The court also ordered confiscation of their property, worth \$ 600 million. Benazir, who was abruptly dismissed from office in 1996, faces five other charges of corruption. Zardari was already in jail and tried to commit suicide, while Benazir was in Dubai. The Supreme Court ruled that her appeal against her conviction could not be entertained until she returned to Pakistan.

The ruling Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was not too comfortable either. The BBC broadcast a film about corruption in Pakistan, putting him in bad light. He clamped down on the press by arresting a noted journalist, Najam Sethi, who had delivered a speech in New Delhi criticising the state of affairs in Pakistan. Mr Sethi was freed on June 2, 1999 after three weeks in detention.

Earlier, Sharif had attempted to pass a constitutional amendment to bring Islamic rule to Pakistan. The amendment had been approved by the lower house of Parliament but lawmakers insisted on a nation-wide referendum. Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto criticised the attempts, saying that Pakistan's judicial system would become like the one in Afghanistan. Going back on the legacy of its founding father Jinnah, who wanted it to have a secular democracy, Pakistan was on the road to join the ranks of Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan. The Bill to enforce Islamic Sharia law was passed in the national assembly.

BANGLADESH: On November 8, 1998, a Bangladesh court sentenced to death 15 ex-military officials on charges of assassinating its founding father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a coup 23 years ago. No action had been taken until his daughter, Sheikh Hasina led the Awami League to power in 1996.

Communist **CHINA** took one step ahead to embrace capitalism. On March 15, 1999, its Parliament, the National

People's Congress, amended its Constitution giving high priority to the private sector. The move paved the way for further market liberalisation and accelerate a profound structural shift in China's economy. Premier Zhu Rongji had earlier unveiled a plan to make State-owned enterprises profitable, restructure the debt-ridden banking system, halve the bureaucracy and privatise the housing market. By November, 1998, it was clear that the country was in economic trouble. Unemployment rose to 200 million and there was a sharp decline in exports and investment. There was also mounting labour unrest in the country.

War torn **AFGHANISTAN** came closer to peace as an agreement to share power was reached between the hard-line Islamic Taliban and opposition forces headed by former President Rabbani. Talks were held in Ashgabad, the capital of Turkmenistan, and it was agreed that they would share power in the government and legislature and release prisoners through the Red Cross.

Elections were held in **NEPAL** in May, 1999. The Nepali Congress got an absolute majority and will hold power for five years, giving some stability to Nepal's politics, which have been plagued with factionalism since the advent of democracy in the country in 1990. Krishna Prasad Shatterai was appointed Prime Minister. The second largest party was Communist Party of Nepal, but the right wing Rashtriya Prajatantra Party was wiped out.

The island State of **FILIPINES** elected an Indian-dominated government for the first time in 12 years. Labour Party leader Mahendra Choudhary defeated outgoing Prime Minister Striveni Rabuka's Rainbow coalition. Fiji had gone to the polls under a new Constitution which granted people of Indian origin equal political power.

The tiny kingdom of **BRUTAN** took the road to modernisation. In a historic seven days in June, 1999, Bhutan got television, logged on to the Internet and got its first colour newspaper. Last year, the government had spent \$150 million for digital phone system and now has the most modern telecom facilities. The king has already relinquished some of his powers and ushered in democracy.



guilty on all four corruption charges. His arrest and trial triggered widespread demonstrations and civil unrest in the country, while other countries criticised the action of the Malaysian government.

Malaysia also faced trouble of another kind: a deadly pig virus claimed 60 lives of farmers. Japanese encephalitis, a mosquito-borne disease, got transmitted to

humans via pigs. The government spent more than \$7.4 million vaccinating people. Over 3,00,000 pigs were slaughtered to control the disease.

Indonesia: Suharto had been forced out from office and B.J. Habibie had taken over, but he did not have the legitimacy to rule. In November, 1998, the protests had multiplied, with people demanding that military should not be in politics.

The generals abandoned restraint, and soldiers shot directly into the crowd, killing six and silencing chants of "reformasi", an overhaul of the political system. An official enquiry concluded that the military had incited some of the violence and rapes that took place. The role of Suharto's son-in-law, a commander in the army, was investigated.

Ethnic violence raged in

Indonesian Borneo and the toll rose to 114. Groups of Malays and indigenous Dayak tribes killed the local minority, the



Africa

One of the greatest leaders of our time who succeeded in fighting apartheid, Nelson Mandela, stepped down as President of **South Africa**. He stepped down at the age of 80, to enjoy the peace and freedom that he had fought for. He was a political prisoner for 27 years but emerged to direct a remarkably peaceful transition from tyranny to democracy,



Europe

On January 1, 1999, Europe made a historic switchover to a new currency, the **Euro**. The currency was adopted by 11 nations, which merged their currencies into the **Euro**. These nations were: Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. These countries formed the **European Monetary Union (EMU)** to have the common currency and a common bank, the **European Central Bank**.

But all was not well. Scandal erupted in the **European Union (EU)** when 20 of its Commissioners resigned as

Madurese. More than 2,000 people were left homeless by the fighting. ■

and prevented a blood bath when apartheid crumbled. The second all-race elections were held on June 2, 1999 and the ruling **African National Congress** emerged victorious; **Thabo Mbeki** was elected President.

Niger President Ibrahim Bare Mainassara was assassinated on April 9, 1999 by members of his personal security guard. He had seized power in 1996 after a military coup, but had failed to give hope to the country, one of the poorest in the world. There had been unrest in the country as the Supreme Court had annulled the elections and ordered a new round of voting. ■

charges of corruption and mismanagement were made against them. An independent report had accused the Commissioners of losing control over the Brussels bureaucracy and listed several examples of nepotism and favouritism in appointments and granting of contracts.

Scotland elected its first Parliament in three centuries, giving the largest share of seats of Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labour Party, but not enough for outright control. Labour had pledged a separate Scottish Parliament in its election manifesto, but the Conservatives had argued that it would lead to Britain's break-up. England has been united with Scotland since 1707. The results of the elections showed that the majority of the five million Scots were content with a degree of self-government

with UK and did not want complete independence, as demanded by the **Scotland National Party (SNP)**.

Russia: The Lower House of Parliament in Russia, the Duma, failed to impeach President Boris Yeltsin. Five charges were brought against him: his role in dissolving the Soviet Union, the dissolution of Parliament in 1993, the war in Chechnya, disintegration of Russia's military forces and unleashing of market forces. None of the charges could get the two-thirds majority required to indict the Russian leader. Yeltsin responded by firing Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov. Sergei Stepashin was appointed as the new Prime Minister—the country's fourth in one year.

The country's political troubles were almost as great as its economic crisis; its economy crashed and it desperately looked for IMF funds. There was great hardship and crime increased in the country. The IMF delayed the loan of \$4.3 billion as the country was unable to implement the anti-inflationary policies and enforce better tax collections. As a result, the financial situation went from bad to worse and even the IMF loan was unable to bail the country out of the economic crisis.

On December 16, 1998, the **French National Assembly** approved a constitutional amendment giving women more power. The Bill added an article to the French constitution which stated that the law favoured equal access to men and women to mandates and positions, which meant that there would be positive discrimination through legislation on political, economic and social matters. ■

The Middle East

Israel's
Labour
Party
leader
Ehud
Barak
defeated Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party in the elections held on May 17, 1999. Netanyahu had halted the peace process and had alienated many supporters, which had not worked well with the electorate. Barak, on the other hand, is the follower of Yitzhak Rabin, who started the peace talks. With Barak's victory, it was expected that the Middle East peace process would start once again.

Earlier, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu had threatened to annex parts of the West Bank if the Palestinians failed to carry out their obligation under the Wye River peace accord. Later, the agreement was suspended in view of the hard line taken by Netanyahu.

Iraq: Tension was escalated several times with the refusal of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to allow UN weapons inspectors into the country. The US threatened to use military intervention after Hussein banned the Americans in the UN team monitoring Iraq's chemical and biological weapons potential. Air strikes were planned on November 14, 1998, but stopped just two hours before they were to be launched. Iraq agreed to cooperate at the last minute and thus a crisis was averted. But UN weapons inspectors were forced to pull out the next month as the country refused to cooperate and allow them full access. On December 16,

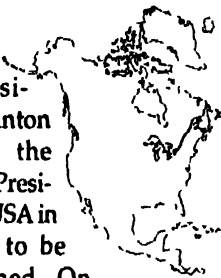
the US and UK started sustained air assault against Iraqi military targets, which stopped after four days. The strikes were the largest that US had undertaken since the 1991 Gulf War, but the timing of the assault came under attack, since it was held on the eve of the vote on Clinton's impeachment.

Jordan: King Hussein of Jordan, the moderating influence in the volatile Middle East peace process and a votary of Arab reconciliation, died on February 7, 1999 after a seven-month battle against cancer. He was 63. His son, Crown prince Abdullah, was named heir apparent by the ailing king. Hussein had played a key role in defining the region's history, by working ceaselessly to bring bitter enemies to the negotiating table.

Palestine: On February 3, 1999, Yasser Arafat completed three decades as leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). He transformed the group, from an Egyptian client group to an intrinsically Palestinian movement. He opted for a direct confrontation with Israel and was a militant leader, but later chose the path of peace through negotiations.

USA

President Clinton became the second President of USA in history to be impeached. On December 11, 1998, the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee voted to impeach Clinton and remove him from office for perjury and obstruction of justice. On December 20, the full House of



Representatives voted to impeach him. He had earlier agreed to pay Paula Jones \$85,000 to drop her sexual harassment suit, ending a lengthy legal battle that had spurred the impeachment proceedings against him. Jones had alleged that Clinton had made a crude advance in a room at a hotel. Clinton denied the allegations and her lawsuit had been dismissed. He, however, admitted to sexual relations with a White House intern, Monica Lewinsky. The relentless prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, pursued the case but the American public lost interest and Clinton survived, against all odds.

Domestic scandal apart, the US was well settled in its role of global policeman. It continued its peace efforts in the Middle East, fought terrorism by bombing bases in Afghanistan and Sudan, imposed economic sanctions against India and Pakistan for testing nuclear weapons, ensured Iraq complied with weapons inspectors by bombing the country and led the NATO attack to liberate Kosovo.

Earlier during the year, on August 7, 1998, simultaneous bombs had exploded outside the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killing 227 people and injuring more than 4000. A Saudi-born millionaire, Osama Bin Laden, living in Afghanistan, was suspected to have been behind the attacks. The US offered a \$5 million reward for him. On August 21, the US retaliated by launching cruise missile strikes against alleged terrorist camps in Afghanistan and a chemical plant in Sudan. The attacks provoked strong protests. India reacted guardedly as it has been

the victim of terrorism in Kashmir. However, it was not a global war on terrorism, as the US made it clear that other countries did not have the right to do the same.

Diplomacy

Pakistan-Russia

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited Russia from April 21, 1999, the first visit by a Pakistani head of State to Moscow in 25 years. A trade and economic cooperation pact was signed between the two countries. Russia made it clear that it would not dilute its stand on Kashmir. There were differences between the two countries when Russia asked Pakistan to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The two sides also disagreed over the war in Kosovo, with Pakistan supporting NATO, while Russia remained critical of it.

China-US

Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji visited USA from April 8, 1999, the first by a Chinese Premier in 15 years. The visit was marred by earlier disclosures that China had systematically stolen nuclear secrets from USA. There were also differences over the hu-

man rights record of China. The issue of China's entry to the WTO remained unresolved. China, however, offered to open up its markets for telecom, insurance, agriculture, cars and other key sectors. The visit was an effort to improve Beijing's image and mend the frayed bilateral ties between the two countries.

The US House Committee on national security headed by Christopher Cox, found that China had stolen secrets of every US nuclear warhead made since the 1970s. The information was used by China to update its own arsenal and passing the data to other countries. The Cox report said that China had some 3000 front companies in the USA, which are used for espionage. The Chinese government described the findings as absurd.

China-Japan

On November 25, 1998, Chinese President Jiang Zemin visited Japan, to become the first Chinese head of State to visit since formal ties were resumed in 1972. China expected to receive an apology for the wartime atrocities committed during the brutal 1937-45 Japanese aggression in China. However, Japan refused to issue an apology.

Terrorism

Libya handed over two suspects in the bombing of the Pan Am flight in 1988 which crashed over Lockerbie in Scotland killing 270 people, to stand trial in the Netherlands. As a result, the UN removed the sanctions imposed on Libya since 1992. This came as a considerable relief to the regime of Muammar Gaddafi, as the country had been isolated for long. US sanctions were not lifted and would end only when other conditions were fulfilled by the country.

The UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice decided to start work on international legislation to prevent the abuse of explosives. The UN Secretary-General would also monitor the new anti-terrorism

Relations between the two countries could not progress and the summit was described as a failure

Russia-Japan

On November 14, 1998, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi signed a document calling for a formal peace treaty between their countries by the year 2000. The Moscow declaration was signed in the hope of finding a solution to the long-standing dispute over Russia's Kuril islands which are claimed by Japan.

USA-Iran

Better relations between the two countries were in the offing as USA decided to drop its designation of Iran as the world's leading terrorism sponsoring nation. In 1998, the USA had identified Iran as the most active State sponsor of terrorism. A liberal government in Iran and improved relations also resulted in USA relaxing trade sanctions to permit sale of food and medicines to Iran.

USA-Pakistan

USA has long had a tilt

towards Pakistan. This has made it overlook many problems that the country has tried to create. There was evidence that this was changing slowly—on his visit to USA on December 4, 1998, Nawaz Sharif found he was not able to get his way. He was not able to get the F-16 aircraft that USA had refused to supply because of Pakistan's nuclear programme. On Kashmir, his attempts to make USA intervene proved unsuccessful as President Clinton ruled out any mediation. The US demanded that Pakistan should apply pressure on Taliban to apprehend and hand over the Saudi terrorist Osama Bin Laden. The US also wanted it to sign the CTBT and carry out structural reforms.

Further evidence of the US policy came when Pakistan desperately wanted some international support for its actions in Kargil. The USA simply asked it to withdraw from the intrusion. Relations between the two countries thus entered a new phase and the impatience of USA was becoming evident by the day. ■

NATO held its 50th anniversary summit in Washington on April 26, 1999, against the backdrop of its campaign in Yugoslavia. Originally meant as an alliance to defend Europe from the threat of communism, it took on the role of global policing by pledging a larger and more flexible force to engage in conflicts in areas beyond the boundaries of its members. On March 12, the military alliance had admitted three more countries as members: the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland. These former communist countries had been eager to align with Western institutions like the EU and NATO ever since they became democracies.

The 10th SAARC Summit

It was held in Colombo on July 29-31, 1998. It called for greater cooperation among the members, the setting up of a free trade regime by 2002 and for nuclear disarmament. The summit did not achieve anything substantial. Only two proposals were endorsed: first, the summit called for complete nuclear disarmament worldwide and, second, they expressed their "abhorrence" of economic sanctions. Sri Lanka's President Chandrika Kumartunga, the current chair of SAARC, tried to save the summit by proposing cultural networking in order to build relations among the countries. The 21st SAARC foreign minister's conference was held at Nuwara Eliya, a hill resort in Sri Lanka. The agenda for the next SAARC summit to be held in Kathmandu was discussed and finalised.

The tenth Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting

was held on November 15, 1998 at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. President Clinton did not attend because of the Iraq crisis and Vice President Al Gore let the cat among the pigeons by praising the people of Malaysia who were trying to topple President Mahatir. Mohammad Malaysia was furious over the references. A declaration at the end of the summit pledged relief for debt-laden corporations and banks and stressed the need for growth by encouraging investment.

The 19th annual Gulf Cooperation Council

was held in Abu Dhabi on December 7, 1998. The six GCC members—Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain—discussed regional security and economic issues, falling oil prices and other political issues. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and South African President Nelson Mandela addressed the summit.

The 12th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

was held in Durban, South Africa from September 2, 1998. South Africa's President Nelson Mandela, who took over as Chairman of the 113-member body, caused a flutter when he mentioned that Kashmir issue be resolved. India was quick to react and the statement was later withdrawn. During the summit, issues of cross border terrorism, global disarmament and relevance of

Disasters

Central America experienced its worst natural disaster in modern history when Hurricane Mitch swept through on November 1, 1998, causing massive flooding. Some 20,000 people died. Honduras and Nicaragua took the brunt of the storm, with 70% of their infrastructure destroyed and much of their agriculture damaged. The other countries affected were Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica. The region saw the worst floods in 200 years.

A Soviet satellite ship, *Shchitovik*, was hit by a missile in the Black Sea on November 2, 1998, killing all 220 people aboard. Investigation later said that the ship was firing the missile at a NATO ship.

the Non-Aligned Movement were discussed. The Durban declaration called for universal, non-discriminatory nuclear regime and accepted India's proposal for an international conference in 1999 to work for complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

UN Climate Conference

Diplomats from 170 countries met for the UN Climate Conference in Buenos Aires in November, 1998. They set 2000 as the deadline for devising specific strategies for implementation of the 1997 Kyoto treaty, which had committed the rich nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2012. The poor countries, mainly Brazil, China, India and Mexico, argued that they cannot comply quickly but Argentina announced binding targets on emissions for industrial pollution.

Miscellany

□ The United Nations hosted a meet on December 12, 1998 to discuss the Y2K problem. Some of the disruptions that could occur due to Y2K were discussed. These are global cash shortages, shipping delays, flight disruptions and power breakdowns. The meetings discussed "SWAT teams" that would follow up problems after the January 1, 2000 deadline, and include international crisis teams who would visit countries in need of technical support.

□ Allegations of bribery, drugs and match-fixing turned 1998 into the "year of sports sleaze". In Australia, customs officers in Sydney discovered a Chinese swimmer trying to

smuggle 13 vials of human growth hormone into the country, for the world championships in Perth. The battle for the post of president of FIFA, the governing body for football, ended in allegations of vote-buying. The cycle race, Tour de France, was wrecked by the biggest drug scandal ever to hit any sport. The International Olympics Committee was rocked when it was discovered that its members had demanded money from cities bidding for Olympics. Australian cricketers admitted that they had been involved with bookmakers during their tour of Sri Lanka. All these disclosures cast a shadow on international sport.

□ On July 18, 1998, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan signed a treaty in Rome to set up the first permanent international court to try war crimes. The International Criminal Court (ICC) will operate from the Hague in

A report of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) warned of gloomy economic prospects and said that emerging markets would stay depressed in 1999. It warned that another round of financial instability could push the already fragile world economy into recession. Financial flows were unlikely to recover and the continuing recession in Japan could prevent a recovery, it said.

Matters between USA and EU got worse as they were involved in a trade war over bananas. EU banana import rules favour former British and French colonies in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific, over Latin American bananas distributed by US firms. The WTO had held that this was illegal. The US imposed sanctions on EU imports and the EU challenged the legality of America's Super 301 trade law. The banana war exposed the weakness of the WTO disputes settlement mechanism.

Netherlands and will bring individuals to justice for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression.

□ The 53rd UN General Assembly meet began on September 21, 1998. Non-proliferation, terrorism, the Asian currency crisis and regional conflicts dominated the agenda. India wanted to have

a ban on nuclear weapons globally, and Pakistan raised the issue of Kashmir.

□ The international treaty eliminating landmines became a law after it was ratified by 40 countries on September 17, 1998. Stockpiles of landmines are to be destroyed within four years and all mines would be removed from the ground within 10 years.

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Arjuna Awards, 1998:

Twenty persons have been given the Arjuna Awards for 1997. They are: Reeth Abraham, *athletics*; Ashok Shandilya, *billiards*; Ajay Jadeja and Saurav Ganguly, *cricket*; Brahmanad Shankwalkar, *football*; Harmeet Kahlon, *golf*; Harmik Singh and Surinder Singh Sodhi, *hockey*; Randhir Singh, *kabaddi*; Satendar Kumar and M.S. Shilpi Singh, *shooting*; Misha Grewal, *squash*; Chetan Baboor, *table tennis*; Asif Ismail, *tennis*; N. Laxmi and Paramjit Sharma, *weightlifting*; Jagdish Singh and Sanjay Singh, *wrestling*. *Handicapped category*: N. Mahadeva, *athletics* and *cricket*; Naresh Kumar Sharma, *shooting*.

Ashok Chakra, 1997:

Second Lieutenant Puneet Dutta and Lt Col Shanti Swrup Rana.

B.C. Roy Award, 1998:

Dr Devendra D. Patel of the Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute, for eminence in medical teaching.

B.D. Goenka Award, 1997:

Diren Bezboruah, Editor

Round-up of National Awards

of the *Sentinel*

Bharat Ratna, 1998:

M.S. Subbulakshmi and C. Subramaniam.

Borlaug Award:

P Pushpangaden, director of the Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Kerala, V. Arunachalam, former head of the genetics division on Agricultural Research Institute and Darshan Shankar of the Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, Bangalore.

Dadabhai Naoroji

Memorial Award, 1997:

Nani A. Palkhivala.

Dayawati Modi Award, 1998:

Hindi poet and scholar Ramdarash Mishra.

Dhanvantri Award, 1997:

Pioneer of nuclear medicine in India, Ramchandra Dattatreya Lele of Jaslok Hospital.

Dronacharya Award, 1998:

National junior coach Joginder Singh Saini.

G.K. Reddy Memorial Award, 1997:

Chief Editor of the *Indian Express*, Shekhar Gupta and *Vartha* Editor-in-Chief A.B.K. Prasad.

Gandhi Peace Prize, 1998:

The Ramakrishna Mission, for its pioneering role in

social and political transformation through non-violence

G.D. Birla Award for Scientific Research, 1996:

Ashoke Sen of the Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, Allahabad

Gujar Mal Modi Science Award, 1997:

Physicist S. Ramaseshan.

Indira Gandhi Award, 1997:

Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, India's top nuclear scientist.

Indira Gandhi National Integration Award, 1997:

The Indira Gandhi Centre of Vishwa Bharati University, Shantiniketan.

Jamnalal Bajaj Awards, 1998:

For constructive social work: Acharya Ramamurti (Bihar), *For application of science and technology to rural development*: Dr Devendra Kumar (Maharashtra), *For espousing the cause of women and children*: social worker Dr Rajammal P. Devdas (Tamil Nadu), *For promoting Gandhian values outside India*: Kumari Jharandhara Choudhary (Bangladesh)

Jnanpith Award, 1997:

Urdu writer Ali Sardar Jafri.

K.K. Birla Awards:

Badminton national champion P. Gopichand, *weight-lifter* Kunjarani Devi and

mountaineer Santosh Yadav.

Kabir Puruskar, 1998:

Santanu Deb Barma of Tripura.

Kalinga Award, 1997:

Dorairajan Balasubramanian, director of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad.

Maulana Abul Kalam trophy:

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. Punjab University finished second and Delhi University was third.

Moortidevi Award:

Hindi writer Nirmal Verma.

Nehru Literacy Award, 1998:

Dr D.P. Patnaik.

Outstanding Parliamentarian Award:

Somnath Chatterjee.

Padam Shri:

Thespian Zohra Segal, hockey star Pargat Singh, Deccan film star Mammooty, former tennis star Ramesh Krishnan, athlete Shiny Wilson, bureaucrat Chewang Phunsog, Punjabi litterateur Gurdial Singh and art historian B.N. Goswami, are among the 32 awardees of the *Padam Shri*.

Padma Bhushan:

Hindi litterateur Bhisham Sahani, journalist H.K. Dua, INA hero Gurbax Singh Dhillon, former Indian High Commissioner to the UK, L.M.

Singhvi, social activist Satya Pal Dang litterateur U R Anantha Murthy, cardiac surgeon P Venugopal, retired justice VM Tarkunde are among the 18 persons honoured with the *Padma Bhushan Awards*.

Padma Vibhushan

Jurist Nani Palkhivala, freedom fighter Lakshmi Sehgal, social worker Usha Mehta and hero of ANC struggle and associate of Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu

Prem Bhatia Award

Harish Khare, deputy chief of the New Delhi bureau of *The Hindu*

Raja Ram Mohan Roy Awards:

Educationist Matthew Panamkat and *director* Urmila Nagar

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award:

Sachin Tendulkar. He is the first cricketer to receive the award

Rajiv Gandhi Manav Sewa Award:

Anantrai K Shah, a social worker

Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavna Award, 1997:

Film star and former Congress MP Sunil Dutt

Saraswati Samman, 1997:

Manubhai Pancholi Darshak

Shankar Puruskar, 1997:

Krishna Narain Prasad 'Magadha' for his work *Vagda i Saraswati*

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards, 1997

For physical science Bikas

Kanta Chakrabarti of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Calcutta and Amitava Raychaudhuri of Calcutta University *For chemical sciences* Kankan Bhattacharya of Jadavpur University and Adusumilli Srikrishna of Indian Institutes of Science, Bangalore *For biological sciences* J Gowrishankar of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology and K V Subba Rao

of International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Delhi *For medical sciences* Vijay Kumar of ICGEB and Satish Gupta of National Institute of Immunology, Delhi *For engineering sciences* Devang V Khakhar of Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai

Tagore Literary Award, 1998:

Mahasweta Devi

Vachaspati Puruskar, 1997:

Rewa Prasad Dwivedi for his work, *Svatantryasambhavam*

Vyas Samman, 1997:

Kedarnath Singh, for his collection of poems *Uttar Kabir Aur Anya Kavitaen*

Round-up of

International Awards

Aga Khan Award, 1998:

Three Indian projects are among the seven awardees selected for the Aga Khan Award for architecture. They are Slum Networking in Indore city, Lepers Hospital, Choda Taluka and Vidhan Bhavan Bhopal. The other awards are for Rehabilitation of Hebron town, Salinger Residence in Selangor in Malaysia, Tuwaiq Palace in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and Alhamra Arts Council in Lahore, Pakistan.

Booker Prize, 1998:

Ian McEwan for his novel, *Amsterdam*

Earth Day Award, 1998:

Father Thomas Kocherry of Kerala, Jack Wyland of the Iceland Expedition Educational group, John Anderson an environment reporter and John Todd of Ocean Arks International.

Fukuoka Prize, 1997:

Historian Romila Thapar

Gandhi Award, 1998:

Bangladesh Prime Minis-

ter Sheikh Hasina. The award is given by Mahatma Gandhi Foundation in

Oslo
Gandhi Peace Prize, 1997:

German social scientist Gerhard Fischer

Goldman Environmental Prizes, 1996:

MC Mehta, India, A Ndyakira, Uganda, Albena Simeonova, Bulgaria, WJ Ballantine, New Zealand, Edwin Bustillos, Mexico, and Marina Silva, Brazil

Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, 1997:

US President Jimmy Carter

Magsaysay Awards, 1998

For public service Sophon

Suphapong, President of the Bangkok Petroleum Ltd *For government service* Adibul Hasan Rizvi, Pakistan

Mother Teresa Memorial Award

Baba Amte and Medha Patkar

Nobel Prizes, 1998

Literature Jose Saramago, Portugal *Medicine* Robert F Furchgott, Louis J Ignarro and Ferid Murad, of the USA *Chemistry* Walter Kohn and John Pople of USA *Physics* Robert C Laughlin of the USA, Horst L Stoermer of Germany and Daniel C Tsui, a native of China who is an American citizen *Economics* Amartya Sen, the Indian economist working at Trinity College, Cambridge *Peace* John Hume and David Trimble, rival politicians of northern Ireland

Pulitzer Prizes, 1998:

For foreign reporting The New York Times *For public service* North Dakota Daily Com-

mentary Award: Mike AcAlary of the *New York Daily News*. **Breaking news award:** *Los Angeles Times*. **For investigative reporting:** Gary Cohn and Will England of the *Baltimore Sun*.

Right Livelihood Prize, 1997:

Mycele Schneider (France) and Jinzaburo Takagi (Japan) in recognition of their struggle against the storage and transportation of plutonium in their countries; Paseph Ki-Zerbo (Burkina Faso), in recognition of his work promoting a democratic and people-centred vision of Africa's future; Cindy Duehring (USA) for her research and information work on chemical injuries; and Michael Succow (Germany) for his achievements in environmental conservation.

Templeton Prize, 1997:

Founder of the Indian spiritual movement, Panduranga Shastri Athavale.

World Statesman Award, 1998:

K.R. Narayanan, President of India.



Round-up of

Awards in Entertainment

Bimal Roy Award, 1997:

Cinematographer Dilip Gupta, who imparted visual beauty in Bimal Roy's films.

Filmfare Awards:

Raja Hindustani was adjudged the best film and also earned awards for heart-throbs Amir Khan (best actor), Karishma Kapoor (best actress), Nadeem Shrivani (best music director) and Udit Narayan (best male playback). The film had swept the popularity charts and was one of the biggest successes in an industry starved of hits. Manisha Koirala's performance in *Khamoshi* won her the critics awards for best performance. The film also won the critics award for best film while Kavita Krishnamurthy bagged the best female singer award. The film *Bandit Queen* won the best director award for Shekhar Kapur and best cinematography award for Ashok Mehta. *Lifetime Achievement Awards* were given to Mumtaz and Dharmendra.



Dadasaheb Phalke Award:

Raj Kumar, the Kannada film actor, producer and singer.

Panda Award (Green Oscar):

Doordarshan's series 'Living on the Edge'. The environmental series was produced by the brothers Nikhil and Niret Alva.

Grammy Awards:

Best male pop vocal: Elton John (*Candle in the Wind*). **Best female pop vocal:** Sarah McLachlan. **Best new artist:** Paula Cole. **Album of the Year:** Bob Dylan. **Best male rock vocal:** Bob Dylan. **Song of the Year:** Shawn Colvin. **Lifetime Achievement:** Mills Brothers. **Best contemporary folk album:** Bob Dylan. **Country female vocal:** Trisha Yearwood.

Oscar Awards:

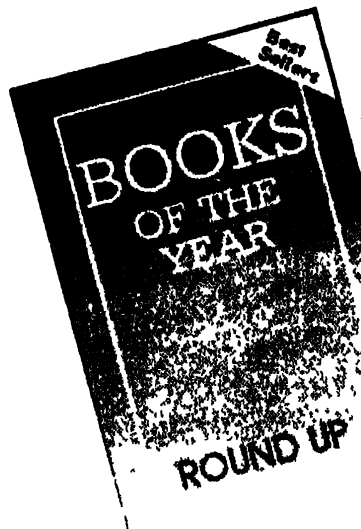
Titanic won 11 Oscars including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Original Song (*My Heart Will Go On*). The Best Actor and Actress Award went to Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt respectively, for the movie, *As Good As It Gets*. Kim Basinger won the Best Supporting Actress award for *L. A. Confidential* and Robin Williams the Best Supporting Actor Award for *Good Will Hunting*.

Polar Music Prize:

India's Ravi Shankar and American Ray Charles.

National Film Awards:

Swarna Kamal for best feature film: Kannada film *Thai Sahib* by Girish Kasaravalli. **Best popular film providing wholesome entertainment:** *Dil to Pagal Hai*. **Best director:** Malayalee director Jayaraaj for *Kaliyattam*. **Best actor:** Balachandra Menon (*Samaantharangal*) and Suresh Gopi (*Kaliyattam*). **Best actress:** Indrani Halder and Rituparna Sengupta (*Dahan*). **Best supporting actress:** Karishma Kapoor for *Dil to Pagal Hai*. **Best supporting actor:** Prakash Raj for Tamil film, *Iruvar*. **Nargis Dutt Award for best feature film on national integration:** *Border*, directed by J.P. Dutta.



A New Deal for Asia:

Written by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, the book takes a look whether Asia can reinvent itself for the next millennium after the regional crisis it has faced.

A Thousand Suns: Written by Dominique Lapierre, it is full of fascinating tales about his travels and exploits as top reporter for the French magazine, *Paris Match*.

A Touch of Tennis: An autobiography of the first tennis family of the country, written by Ramanathan Krishnan and Ramesh Krishnan.

Across Borders: Former foreign secretary J.N. Dixit traces fifty years of India's Foreign Policy and says that the country has managed its foreign policy with practicality and good sense.

Adiwitaya Amartya (Unparalleled Amartya): The first book in Bengali on Amartya Sen's life, by Pranati Bandyopadhyay and N. Mukhopadhyay.

Amsterdam: Written by Ian McEwan, winner of the Booker

Prize, 1999, it chronicles a sex scandal surrounding a fictional foreign secretary. His first novel, *First Love, Last Rites*, won the Somerset Maugham Award in 1975 and *The Child in Time*, a 1987 work, won the Whitbread Award.

An Equal Music: Written by Vikram Seth, the novel is expected to be a literary blockbuster.

An Unfinished Dream: Written by Dr. Verghese Kurian, architect of India's Operation Flood which made the country self-reliant in the production of milk. It is a collection of speeches through which the story of Anand experience comes out.

Ancient India in Historical Outline: Written by D.N. Jha, the book explodes several myths of history.

Baltasar and Blimunda; Stone Raft: The novels written by Jose Saramago, the Portugal novelist who has won 1999 Nobel Prize for literature. His best known novel is *Stone Raft*, in which the Iberian peninsula breaks off from Europe for supernatural reasons and floats off into the Atlantic.

Betrayal: Written by Bill Gertz, a reporter of the *Washington Times*, it has many classified US documents that divulge many secrets and presents a critical account of Clinton administration's security policy.

Business—The Speed of Thought: Written by Bill Gates with Collin Hemingway, the famous chairman of Microsoft says that only managers who master the digital nervous system of an organisation will gain competi-

tive advantage in the future.

Canterbury Tales: A first edition of Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, printed by William Caxton in 1476 or 1477, was auctioned by Christie's in London for \$7.53 million, becoming the most expensive book ever sold.

Difficult Daughters: A novel written by Manju Kapur, about educating daughters and the consequences when they learn to think for themselves and begin to question the basic values of society.

It's Always Possible: Kiran Bedi writes about her term in Tihar jail, exposing how apathy makes life in the jail a nightmare.

Lahore - Portrait of a Lost City: Written by Indian journalist Som Anand and published by a Pakistani publisher, the book says that Lahore was famous for its glamour and cultural achievements but its degeneration began with partition. Communal harmony gave way to religious hatred.

Polyster Prince: The biography of Dhirubhai Ambani by Hamish McDonald. The Ambanis moved court against the publication of the book.

Poverty and Famines: The path-breaking book by 1999 Nobel Prize winner for economics, Amartya Sen in which he has studied famines in India, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Saharan countries and found that shortage of food is not always the cause of catastrophe.

The Blue Bedsprad: A novel by Raj Kamal Jha which tells a tale of hope, violence and despair set in Calcutta. The book created history because the author was paid an advance of more than \$

3,00,000 by the publishers, Picador, the highest ever to an Indian author.

The Corrupt Society: Written by Chandan Mitra, it is a description of corruption and criminalisation of society in modern India.

The Crisis of Global Capitalism: Written by the billionaire financier George Soros, the book says that we cannot assume the self-correcting stability of the global financial system.

The Everest Hotel: I. Allan Sealy's new novel is about a once elegant hotel, now a home for the destitute run by nuns. It takes an ethereal look at India consumed by decline.

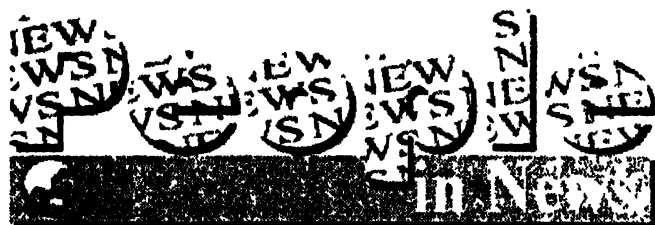
The Ground Beneath Her Feet: The new novel by Salman Rushdie, which has created a controversy as reviewers have said that it is disappointing to read.

The Politics of Crime and Corruption: Former CBI Officer N.K. Singh joins the list of bureaucrats writing about crime and corruption.

The Tunnel of Time: The autobiography of the famous cartoonist, R.K. Laxman.

Ulysses: James Joyce's novel, an epic story about one man's journey during a single day in Dublin, Ireland, has been unanimously selected by a panel as the best English novel of the century.

Vishwabahu Parashuram: Written by Dr. Vishwambhar Nath Upadhyaya, winner of the Bihari Puruskar, the novel is a vivid description of society, culture and history during the Rigvedic times.



Anand, Adarsh Sen:

The new Chief Justice of India, he succeeded M.M. Punchhi on October 9, 1998. He was appointed additional judge of the J&K High Court in 1975 and confirmed as permanent judge the following year. He was the first Indian to be awarded the fellowship of the University College, London in 1937. He was also unanimously elected as honorary bencher of the society of Inner Temple, last year.

Bi, Fatima:

Sarpanch of Kalva village in Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh, she is the recipient of UNDP's "Race Against Poverty" award. She transformed a backward village into one where women have become self-reliant since the UNDP launched its poverty alleviation scheme there. She persuaded the women to join the Poddupu Lakshmi scheme and the savings under it helped liberate the women. Women were given training in tailoring and embroidery, adolescent girls were enrolled in night schools and a creche was started. As a result, the village has prospered.

Choudhury, Kumari Jharanadhara:

Recipient of the Jamnalal Bajaj Award for 1998, Choudhury has promoted

Gandhian values in Bangladesh, where she runs Gandhi Ashrams in 28 villages covering 48,000 people.

Devdas, Rajammal P:

One of the recipients of the Jamnalal Bajaj Awards for 1998, she is among the first persons to receive a PhD from the USA. She was one of the pioneers of the school lunch programme in Tamil Nadu, which feeds about nine million children today.

Furchgott, Robert F:

A pharmacologist at the State University of New York, he is one of the three winners of the Nobel Prize for Medicine, 1998.

Hume, John:

Leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) and the Catholic Nationalist Party in Ireland and one of the architects of the Ireland peace accord, he shares the Nobel Prize of Peace, 1998.

Ignarro, Louis J:

A scientist at the University of California, he is one of the three winners of the Nobel Prize for Medicine, 1998.

Kabila, Laurent-Desire:

Rebel leader who took over power in Zaire after ousting Mobutu.

Kalam, A.P.J. Abdul:

Pioneer of India's missile

programme and scientific adviser to the Defence Minister, he won the Indira Gandhi Award in 1998. He joined ISRO in 1963 and has been the driving force in the country's weaponisation programme.

Kohn, Walter:

The US researcher, who shares the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, 1998

Kumar, Devendra:

Recipient of the Jamnalal Bajaj Award for application of science in rural development, he has been associated with the All India Village Industries (AIVI) and successfully experimented with rural technologies. He has been involved in the integrated development of villages.

Laughlin, Robert C:

The US scientist working in Stanford University, who is one of the three winners of the Nobel Prize for Physics, 1998.

Murad, Ferid:

University of Texas medical school, he is one of the three winners of the Nobel Prize for Medicine, 1998.

Pople, John:

The US researcher, who shares the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, 1998.

Ramamurti, Acharya:

Recipient of the Jamnalal Bajaj Award for social work for 1998, he was a follower of Vinoba Bhave and has helped reconstruct 30 villages to uplift Harijans and other disadvantaged communities.

Saramago, Jose:

The Portuguese novelist, who is the winner of Nobel Prize for literature, 1998.

Sen, Amartya:

Winner of Nobel Prize for economics for 1998, he is mas-

ter of Trinity College at Cambridge University. He is the sixth Indian to win and the first Asian to get the Prize. He was also appointed human development advisor to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Stoermer, Horst L:

The German scientist at Columbia University, who is one of the three winners of the Nobel Prize for Physics, 1998.

Tipnis, A.Y:

The Chief of Air Staff, who succeeded S.K. Sareen on December 31, 1998. He took active part in the 1965 operations and flew many combat missions. He has held several important operational and staff appointments.

Trimble, David:

Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), the main Protestant party in Ireland, he is one of the two winners of the Nobel Peace Prize, 1998.

Tsui, Daniel C:

A native of China who is a US citizen and works in Princeton University, he is one of the three winners of the Nobel Prize for Physics, 1998.

Vajpayee, Atal Behari:

India's 12th Prime Minister. He was in the news for taking a historic visit to Lahore and will also be remembered as the Prime Minister who took India on the path to nuclear weaponisation. His government lost the vote of confidence in Parliament and the Lok Sabha was dissolved on April 26, 1999.



Achievers

A.G. Krishnamurthy:

Mudra Communications chairman and managing director, who has been ranked as one of the 25 key global advertising figures, by Media International of UK.

Abdul Masfoor:

The creative horticulturist from Hunsur near Mysore, who has found a place in the Guinness Book of World Records for growing a giant (20 feet) brinjal plant.

Allan Sealy:

He was conferred a rare honour as the Booker jury summoned his latest novel, *The Everest Hotel* for consideration, even though it had not been entered by the publishers.

Amar Kanwar:

The director of the 30-minute film, *A Season Outside*, who won the Golden Gate Award at the 41st San Francisco International Film Festival.

Anchal and Akash Grover:

They are the recipients of the Geeta and Sanjay Chopra National Children Bravery Award.

Anil Sood:

He was promoted as Vice President for strategy and resource management in the World Bank.

Anna Hazare:

The social worker whose campaign against corruption led him a three-month imprisonment in a defamation case against him by Maharashtra

Social Minister Babanrao Gholap. He refused to furnish a bond of Rs 5,000 but was later released on the intervention of the State government.

Arun Bhatia:

Former Municipal Commissioner of Pune, whose transfer from the city evoked strong protests from city residents. He had started fighting the powerful builder-politician lobby in Pune and ordered many demolitions, but was transferred on March 13, 1999 after just one week of taking over. This was his 23rd transfer in 32 years. He was reinstated by the court but was transferred after some time again.

Asha Bhonsle:

The Indian singer who was given a place of honour in the theme restaurant, Planet Hollywood. She was invited to emboss her handprints in clay, to be later cast in mould. She is the first Indian to have won such acclaim.

Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones:

The first men to fly around the world non-stop in a hot-air balloon. They completed the feat in 20 days in their Breitling Orbiter 3 launched from Switzerland.

Bill Gates:

Microsoft chairman, he has topped the *Forbes* list of the world's richest industrialists for the fourth year in a row. His company faced anti-trust investigations by the US government during 1998.

Charlotte Nilsson:

The Swedish singer, who won the Eurovision contest for 1999 with her song, "Take me to your heaven."

Dhirubhai Ambani:

Chairman of Reliance Industries, who has been chosen by *Asiaweek* magazine for its 1998 Business Hall of Fame, for having faced the toughest of times and succeeded in spite of them. He also became the first Indian to be awarded the Dean's Medal from Wharton School of University of Pennsylvania.

Dilip Biswas:

The chairman of the Central Pollution Control Board, who is the recipient of the G-51 Millennium Award for outstanding contribution in the field of environment protection.

Farooq Abdullah:

Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, who has received the National Amity Award from the Foundation of Amity and National Solidarity.

G. Prashant Kumar:

The 14-year-old from Tirupati who has made batteries from banana peels and was called to give a demonstration at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Philadelphia, USA.

Girdharilal I. Nagpal:

Producer of *Swayamvaram*, a Tamil feature film which will enter the Guinness Book of World Records for being shot in 24 hours, the shortest-ever time.

Girish Karnad:

Winner of the 34th Jnanpith award, he was appointed as president of the Film and Television Institute of

India society (FTII).

Gita Hariharan:

Author of *When Dreams Travel*, who filed the petition saying that women should be considered as natural guardians to their children. The Supreme Court has ruled in her favour.

Gul Panag:

She has been crowned Femina Miss India.

Herb Tanner:

The 92-year-old former pilot with artificial knees, who made a record by becoming the oldest person ever to jump from an airplane without holding on to anyone else.

Hrishikesh Yadav:

Leader of the first Indian civilian expedition to Mount Everest.

Jack Keavorkian:

America's infamous suicide doctor who assisted more than 130 sick patients to end their lives, who was convicted of second degree murder in a US court and could face life imprisonment.

Jagdish Shah:

The Indian engineer who had a metro station in the US named after him.

Jyoti Yadav:

He is the Castrol Young Indian Cricketer for 1997-98.

Kailash Satyarthi:

The child labour activist and chairperson of the NGO, South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS), who has won the 1999 human rights award of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung of Germany. He is the first Indian to win the award.

Kalanidhi Maran:

Chief of *Sun TV*, who has

been named the Indian Young Business Achiever Award for 1999 by Sista's Worldcom.

Kumar Shahani:

The film-maker, who won the Prince Claus award of the Netherlands.

L.N. Mittal:

His take-over of Inland Steel of the US, made him the world's third largest steel producer.

Lapierre, Dominique:

Best-selling French writer who has co-authored books like 'Freedom at Midnight' and 'O Jerusalem', he is now involved in changing the poor in Calcutta. The proceeds of his latest book, 'A Thousand Suns' which was published in 1998, will go to the poor in Sunderbans.

Leon Stukelj:

Six-time Gymnastics medallist and the oldest living Olympian, who turned 100 on November 13, 1998.

Linor Abargil:

The Miss World 1999, who is from Israel.

M. Sharma and Uma Kant:

Scientists at the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, who have been awarded the 1999 National Research Development Corporation Awards for inventing an encoder unit to provide the altitude of aircraft to control stations.

Mariapan Saravanan:

A Major of 1 Bihar, who died while assaulting a bunker in the Batalik sector on May 29, 1999. He has been conferred the title of 'Hero of

Batalik'.

Mario Carballo:

The Costa Rican who was crowned 'Grasim Mr International 1998' in Jaipur

Mark Taylor:

Australian cricket captain, who was named Australian of the Year.

Merzban Burjor Lehwalla:

Proprietor of the A K Agarbatti Works, Ahmedabad, he has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for making the largest incense stick in the world—it is 14 feet nine inches long, six inches thick and weighs 6.3 kg. It has three fragrances and each changes after an interval of 22 hours and lasts for 66 hours

Mpute Kwelagobe:

The Miss Universe 1999 is from Botswana

N.C. Krishnapriya:

The communications student from Tamil Nadu who has won the UNESCO Photography prize for his picture on "Right to Education".

Pandit Jasraj:

The noted vocalist who won an award from the American Artists Association

Pope John Paul II:

Sony has set 11 of his public appearances consisting of prayers and chants to original music with elements of jazz, rap, pop and opera. The album, "Abba Pater" was released in March, 1999.

R.A. Mashelkar:

The director general of CSIR who is the recipient of the JRD Tata Corporate Leadership Award for 1998.

Radhanath Rath:

Editor of Oriya daily, *The Samaj*. At 102, he is the oldest

editor of the country.

Ravi Shankar:

Sitar maestro, who was among five persons selected for the Paemeium Imperiale Award given for lifetime achievement in the arts.

Ravi Shankar:

The sitar maestro who was selected for Germany's third annual international film and media music award.

Richard Branson:

British tycoon who undertook a round-the-world flight in a hot air balloon, the ICO Global Challenger with co-pilots Steve Fossett and Per Lindstrand.

Richard Seed:

The US scientist, who announced plans to clone humans.

Roshan Seth:

He has won the Canadian film industry's Genie award for best actor for his performance in the movie, *Such a Long Journey*.

S.R. Rao:

The former Surat Municipal Commissioner who had the city cleaned up after the outbreak of plague and transformed it. He has entered the Limca Book of Records for his achievement.

Sachin Tendulkar:

He has become the first Indian sportsperson to be featured on the cover of *Time* magazine, which said that his batting performances have earned him comparisons with soccer great Diego Maradona.

Salman Rushdie:

Author of *The Satanic Verses*, who was given a reprieve by the Iranian government, which said that

the author was no longer on its hit list.

Saloo and Neena Choudhury:

The winners trophy of the Guinness World Records Road Challenge beginning on October 15, 2000 has named the winners trophy 'Choudhury trophy' in honour of ace car rallyists from Calcutta who in 1989 passed through 6 continents in 69 days and repeated the same feat in 1991 in 39 days.

Samuel Becket:

The Royal National Theatre has rated his *Waiting for Godot* as the century's most important play.

Sanat Kumar Chatterjee:

The painter who had earlier entered the Limca Book of Records for a 27.6 x 2.7 m scroll painting, has now entered the Guinness Book of World Records with a 30 x 3.3 m painting, the largest silk scroll painting in the world

Sanga Sherpa and Kushang Dorjee:

The Indian mountaineers who set a world record by becoming the first climbers to have scaled Everest from the eastern Kangshung face, the most difficult and the least attempted route

Shanti Devi:

The Madhubani painter who was paid Rs 8 lakh for her paintings by Hermes, the French luxury scarf and accessories brand.

Sheela Gowda:

The Bangalore-based artist who won the newly instituted Sotheby's Prize for contemporary Indian art.

Shekhar Kapoor:

He has won the best di-

rector award for his film, *Elizabeth*, given by the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, New York.

Shivangi Parikh:

She was crowned Femina Miss India Asia-Pacific.

Suhaib Ilyasi:

Producer of the programme, *India's Most Wanted*, which is telecast on Zee TV. The programme has helped catch several

absconding criminals and is helping the police.

Sujata Sankranti:

Teacher of English in New Delhi, who has won the first prize in the 1998 Commonwealth Short Story competition for her story, *The Warp and the Weft*

Tathagat Tulsi:

He passed the B.Sc examination from the Patna University at the age of 11 years, 2

months, thereby establishing a world record.

Vijay Amritraj:

Former tennis player, who has been appointed as Davis Cup Centennial Ambassador by the International Tennis Federation.

Vijay Mallya:

The U B. group chief who appeared in his company's advertisements personally, advising people not to drink in

excess, or when they have to drive.

Vishal Bakshi:

The first-ever film actor to join the Territorial Army.

Vithika Agarwal:

The Bangalore beauty who was crowned Miss India Asia-Pacific.

Yukta Mookhey:

She has been crowned Femina Miss World, 1999.



Ajit:

The popular villain of Hindi films, who died on October 22, 1998 at Hyderabad. He gave remarkable performances in *Mughal-e-Azam* and *Naya Daur* and switched to villain's roles in *Zanjeer* and *Yaadon Ki Baraat*. His real name was Hamid Ali Khan.

Akira Kurosawa:

Japan's most famous film director.

Alan Shepard:

The US astronaut who, in 1961, became the first American in space. He was also the fifth person to walk on the moon. He died in Washington at the age of 74.

Ashok Jain:

Chairman of *The Times of India* group of newspapers.

H.P. Nanda:

Chairman Emeritus and founder of the Escorts group of industries.

Hayat Ullah Ansari:

Founder-editor of *Quami Awaz* and former parliamentarian.

Indrani Rahman:

Eminent classical dancer and a recipient of the Padma Shri.

Iris Murdoch:

Anglo-Irish novelist, author of 27 novels including the Booker prize winning *The Sea, the Sea*.

Kavi Pradeep:

Poet and recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 1997.

King Hussein:

Ruler of Jordan for 47 years and a voice of moderation in the Middle East who acted as a bridge between the Palestinians and Israel, he was reported clinically dead after battling cancer for nearly a year. Under him, Jordan became the second Arab country to have signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994, after Egypt. He ruled Jordan since 1952.

Lee Falk:

Creator of comic strips

'Mandrake the Magician' and 'The Phantom'.

Lord Hunt:

Leader of the first successful expedition to Mount Everest in 1953.

Manmohan Adhikari:

Former Prime Minister of Nepal.

Mohan Gokhale:

Theatre and TV personality.

O.P. Ralhan:

Noted film producer-director.

P.N. Haksar:

Eminent administrator and diplomat.

Postel, Jon:

The conceptualist and one of those who helped structure the Internet, once referred to as "god" of the Internet, he died on October 21, 1998. He headed the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority, that oversaw the Internet's complex structure.

Raghubir Singh:

Internationally renowned photographer, who

had compiled two books on the Ganga.

Shankar, Anand:

Son of Uday Shankar and nephew of Ravi Shankar, Anand Shankar, died on March 26, 1999. He was a famous musician and tried bold experiments with Indian and Western music known as "fusion music".

Sudhendu Roy:

Hindi film industry's most sought-after art director, who created sets for many famous movies.

Thakazhi

Sivasankara Pillai:

Jnanpith award winner and doyen of Malayalam literature.

Vishnu Waman

Shirwadkar (Kavi Kusumagraj):

Eminent Marathi poet, playwright and former winner of the Jnanpith Award.

Yehudi Menuhin:

One of the most brilliant and celebrated violinists of the century.

Places in News

Anandpur Sahib:

People in great numbers visited the birthplace of the *Khalsa* to celebrate the tercentenary of the order established by Guru Gobind Singh. The Punjab government decided to make it into a 'most modern city'.

Apawor:

The scene of a gas pipe blast in Nigeria, which killed over 1,000 people.

Armenia:

The city in Columbia's coffee belt west of the capital Bogota, which experienced the strongest earthquake to strike Columbia in more than a century. The tremor of magnitude 6, killed at least 1,000 people and left almost 2,00,000 homeless.

Athens:

The Greek city, which was awarded the 2004 Olympic games.

Bangalore:

The city was counted among the top ten technotowns of the world by *Newsweek* magazine. The city had 250 hi-tech companies including Texas Instruments and Infosys.

Bangkok:

Capital of Thailand, it was the venue of the 13th Asian Games from December 6-20, 1998.

Chamoli:

Chamoli district of Garhwal hills was the epicentre of the earthquake that struck the hill regions of Uttar Pradesh on March 29, 1999. More than 100 people were killed. The worst affected areas included lower and upper Chamoli, Rudraprayag and Paaniyana of the Himalayan region.

Colombo:

The capital of Sri Lanka, which was the venue of the 10th SAARC Summit held on July 29-31, 1998.

Dahanu:

A taluka in Maharashtra, where the proposed construction of a port threatens to destroy the environment and displace the tribals living there.

Davos:

This resort in Switzerland was the venue of the meeting of the World Economic Forum.

Durban:

The South African city was the venue of the 12th NAM Summit held on September 2-3, 1998.

Goa:

Goa became the first place in the history of elections in the country where Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were used to cover the entire region, during the Assembly elections

held there on June 4, 1999.

Hyderabad:

The city acquired the name of Cyberabad, with giants like Oracle and Microsoft setting up offices there. A 'silicon valley' was being developed there.

Jakarta:

Capital of Indonesia, it has seen some of its worst civil unrest and clashes with soldiers as people chant 'reformasi'.

Kargil:

The Kargil sector of Kashmir is the scene where gun battles are being fought by the Indian army with Pakistan-backed infiltrators.

Kosovo:

The trouble spot of Europe which witnessed human tragedy as people were forced to flee their homes because of the Serb police.

Kuala Lumpur:

Capital of Malaysia, it hosted the summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). The Commonwealth Games were held here in September, 1998. The city also witnessed many demonstrations because of the trial of former Deputy Prime Minister, Anwar Ahmed.

Malpa:

The village in Uttar Pradesh which was destroyed by landslides, killing 300 people and the pilgrims on way to the Kailash Mansarovar.

Papua New Guinea:

Seven villages were destroyed in Papua New Guinea when a tidal wave crashed its remote north coast on July 17, 1998.

Posoltega:

The town of Nicaragua which was hit by Hurricane Mitch on October 31, 1998, kill-

ing thousands of people.

Sriharikota:

Once a small settlement of Yannadi tribals, this island on the Bay of Bengal has now become a major commercial spaceport in the world. The Sriharikota range, popularly known as "Shar", is situated in Andhra Pradesh. The national highway connecting Chennai and Calcutta passes through the town about 80 km north of Chennai. The island is acquiring an additional launch pad for the next phase of launch vehicles, the geostationary launch vehicles.

Telucigalpa:

The capital of Honduras, the scene of terrible devastation when Hurricane Mitch hit the country on October 31, 1998.

Udham Singh Nagar:

The district in Uttar Pradesh which did not want to join the Uttaranchal hill State, as proposed by the government.

Wagah:

The place at the India-Pakistan border where the Radcliff line divides the two countries, it was the scene of a military spectacle when Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee crossed to Pakistan on his historic visit to that country on February 20, 1999.

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Round-up of Current General Knowledge

CYBERSPACE



The Internet spread in India, but there were many problems. Since connection could be made only through the *Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd* (VSNL) gateway, getting connected not only took a lot of time but connections broke without warning. The government announced that private **Internet Service Providers** (ISPs) would be allowed and some firms started providing services. Satyam Online of Hyderabad became the first ISP in the private sector, and others followed suit. Dishnet started providing Internet through cable and there was another plan to send Internet signals through power transmission lines. However, the spread of the Internet was severely restricted and only a few cities could boast of reasonably efficient services.

Many organisations started using the Internet for different purposes. Newspapers and magazines, provided on-line editions. THE COMPETITION MASTER's site became very popular with people seeking career-related information. Readers could participate in

debates and discussions and send queries for its popular feature, Question Box. The Indian Army created its own site to counter the e-mail sites and websites geared to "internationalise" the Kashmir issue, and the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL) came up with a scheme to set up cyber dhabas in Mumbai and Delhi to provide Internet access. With the government's earlier plans of making Internet kiosks becoming a non-starter, it remained to be seen whether the *dhabas* could ever become a reality. Private service providers, however, made a success of cyber cafes all over the country. Tihar Jail also established a presence on the Internet and became the first totally computerised prison complex. This would inject a greater transparency in its working.

For users in India, a new software, *Bharatbhasha*, was developed, by which users could type Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati and Punjabi on the usual English keyboard.

Electronic commerce caught on and continued to become popular. It meant not only buying and selling things through the Internet but changed the way in which

organisations conduct businesses. It led the way to paperless transactions and companies could be proactive to market needs to enhance customer service, while enabling them to make the right decisions by providing the right information.

Sun Microsystems introduced a new networking technology, *Jini*. It allowed disparate devices to communicate easily. This technology could make communications simpler between organisations using different devices.

DEFENCE



India continued to make strides in defence research. Scientists at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) claimed to have designed Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) systems, to provide protection against a nuclear blast. India, thus, joined the select band of countries like USA, Russia, China, Israel and NATO members who possess similar protective mechanism.

The country also successfully test fired the Agni-II Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) on April 11, 1999. With a range of 3,000 km, it is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead and has mobile launch capability. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) also prepared to test fire the first Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM), the Astra. The country's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) would be equipped with the Astra missiles.

India's second indigenously-built destroyer, INS

Mysore, was commissioned on June 2, 1999. Built at Mazagon Dock, the 6,700 tonne destroyer was inducted into the Navy within two years of the commissioning of INS *Delhi*, the first warship of its class. The country also signed a memorandum of understanding with Russia for purchase of the 44,500 tonne aircraft carrier, *Admiral Gorshkov*. Russia offered the carrier free of cost, but it would still require Rs 2,000 crore, as it needed modifications and a major refit.

The Air Force too was active during the period. On March 7, 1999, it conducted exercise *Vayushakti-99*, in which live bombing and missiles were used.

DISCOVERIES



Discoveries continued to come to light during the period. **Rare skeletal remains** of a 160-Million-year-old dinosaur belonging to the Sauropod group were excavated at Kistapur in Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh by the Geological Survey of India. A rare family of polar insects were found in the Antarctica during operations at *Gangotri*, the Indian Research Station in the icy continent.

A ninth century Chandela temple was discovered at Khajuraho. Excavations by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) near Jat kara revealed the foundation of a temple with carvings and sculptures.

New research also found that humans may have roamed Australia for significantly longer than the accepted estimate of 40,000 to 60,000 years. The Australian National University re-dated human

bones found at a burial site at Lake Murgu and found that their age was significantly older than what was earlier thought.

EDUCATION



A disturbing trend was gradually coming to light—the slow but sure extinction of science courses. Stung by limited career options, science graduates were opting for streams that would get them jobs and students did not want to opt for science courses at all. The number of science students dropped from 32 per cent to 19 per cent in the last few years, giving rise to worries whether space research and atomic energy, along with other areas of technology, would suffer. The trend was visible globally too: in London, students opting for science had been reduced by almost 50 per cent within a span of 14 years. Commerce and humanities had become more popular, with the possibility to do professional courses, since they offered more job openings.

UNESCO approved the setting up of an international institute for special education in India, the first of its kind in the world. It would act as resource-cum-training centre for the Asia-Pacific region, to equip teachers to deal with students with disabilities. The Centre-sponsored scheme, Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC), was also planned to be revised to strengthen training and evaluation, as also to raise financial ceiling for certain facilities to disabled children.

The Supreme Court struck down the Bar Council of

India's training rules, requiring fresh law graduates to undergo one-year compulsory training before their enrolment as advocates. The judgement benefited thousands of students.

The French government created a new agency EduFrance, to promote higher education in France at the international level. India was the first country where the activities of this newly formed agency was launched.

A corporate business school, the Indian School of Business, was planned to be set up in Hyderabad. It would be affiliated to leading business schools at Wharton and Pennsylvania, and the JK Kellogg Graduate School. It would open in the year 2000.

ENVIRONMENT



There were disturbing news in the field of environment. Global warming seemed to have become a reality, as readings from satellites and weather stations confirmed that the earth had been warmer during 1998 than any other time since 1880, when reliable measures of global temperatures were started. The world was 0.25 degrees warmer than 1997, which was the warmest year on record so far.

Despite the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, poaching continued to pose a threat to tigers. Their body parts are used in Chinese medicine. The Worldwide Fund for Nature said that after an initial rise in tiger population, there has been a decline once again.

Wind energy was harnessed by India in a big way. The country became the

leader in developing countries in wind generation, with over 900 MW being generated. Its development slowed down after tax incentives were withdrawn. The Worldwatch Institute said that India still did not have a legal basis for sustained wind power industry, unlike China, which could emerge as a wind superpower.

EXPEDITIONS



On March 25, 1999, Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones completed the first non-stop balloon trip around the world in their Breitling Orbiter 3. After going over Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific Ocean, they crossed the finish line over Mauritania, establishing the greatest record in ballooning history.

Nepalese guide Babu Chhiri Sherpa completed 21 hours of stay on Mt Everest, setting a record for the longest stay atop the mountain. Extreme weather conditions usually force climbers to retreat after just a few minutes at the peak. Two Indian mountaineers, Sange Sherpa and Kushang Dorjee, set a world record on May 28, 1999 by becoming the first climbers to have scaled the Everest from three sides, when they reached the summit from the eastern Kangshung face, the most difficult and least attempted route.

Members of another expedition discovered the body of George Mallory near the summit of Mount Everest. Mallory and his team-mate Andrew Irvine were the first to scale the mountain but the two Englishmen had disappeared in 1924. The

question was whether they had died after returning from the peak or before reaching the top. Since the camera was not found, this could not be established. If proved, they would be the first men to scale Mount Everest, 29 years before Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay.

PROJECTS



With the development of electronic technologies, many projects were announced to upgrade facilities in India. Three major cities in UP—Lucknow, Kanpur and Allahabad—were to be developed as Sensitivity, Modernity, Accessibility, Responsiveness, Transparency (SMART) cities. The clearance of the MoU with World Tel for Internet infrastructure in UP would usher in the new concept. On-line services would be provided for many common tasks.

Small town patients wanting to consult specialists in premier medical institutions could seek advice by sending their records and reports electronically, under a new concept of tele-medicine. The Rs 10 crore Department of Electronics (DOE) project would link three major referral centres: the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh and the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute, Lucknow. The system would allow electronic transmission of pathological and diagnostic data. The technologies would be developed by C-DAC Pune and CEDT, Mohali. The government also planned to set up a Vidya

Vahini Network (VVNet) to connect the intranets of different agencies such as the University Grants Commission, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the Human Resources Development Ministry and State level network

The Steel Authority of India (SAIL) and six other international steel companies joined the **Ultra Light Steel Body (ULSAB) project**, launched in Miami in February 1999. The project is aimed to develop futuristic automobile prototypes with the use of ultra light steel and has been nicknamed the "super car project"

A 7,000 km road project was announced by the Prime Minister to start from 20 different locations in the country. A six-lane North-South corridor connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari and an East-West corridor connecting Silchar to Saurashtra, at a cost of Rs 28,000 crore, was envisaged.

The 900 MW **Baghilar hydroelectric project** on the river Chenab was allotted to a Canadian consortium by the J&K government. It would meet one-third of the total energy requirement of the State by 2003-04.

An integrated **deep sea mining** project was taken up by an Indo-German collaboration. It was the first time that such a project was taken up in the country. The foundation stone of India's first private port at Dhamra, 170 km from Bhubaneswar, was laid on July 15, 1998. The 1,200 crore project would be executed by International Seaports, Singapore, a joint company promoted by Larsen

and Toubro, India, SSA International of USA and Precious Slapping of Bangkok.

RESEARCH

The Indian Institute of Science Bangalore initiated a work to create a bio chip or living microprocessor. The project, with an initial input of Rs 23 crore, is to be funded by Department of Bio-technology (DBT). Scientists discovered that a protein found in sodium bacteria showed unique properties under laser and could be used to create three-dimensional microchips.

Scientists at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) developed a nuclear technology which could derive potable water from the sea. The technology uses Multi Stage Flash and reverse osmosis for desalination, which ensures sweet water similar to the one drawn from conventional sources.

A Japanese company developed a technology that would allow viewers to pause, rewind and instantly replay scenes on television. Developed by Quantum Corporation, the TV contains modified hard disc drives called Quick View. The technology was expected to revolutionise television watching habits and give greater freedom to viewers.

A chemical process developed by British scientists promised to make clothes that would never get dirty. The treatment creates an invisible non-stick surface coating that repels water and dirt, thus keeping clothes clean despite constant exposure. The process could be used for other

applications also.

British scientists also developed the world's first electronic dictionary of colours—a digital palette containing more than 16 million colours. Called **Imagemaster**, it would enable precise definition of colour, enabling textile designers and cosmetic manufacturers to decide the most appropriate shade, a process which took several months to accomplish.

A Danish scientist succeeded in slowing down the speed of light to as low as 71 km per hour using the Bose-Einstein condensate. In the condensate atoms slow down considerably as temperatures are reduced to that approaching absolute zero.

India perfected the art of commercial production of titanium, which was earlier the monopoly of a select group of developed countries. The DRDO demonstrated the technology for a 2,000 batch size.

Indian scientists also discovered how **proteins were transported** in the human body. The phenomenon of 'rafting', observed for the first time in living cells, could lead to new methods of preventing transmission of infectious diseases.

Researchers found convincing proof that the **AIDS virus** had spread from monkeys. They said that the virus had spread on three separate occasions from chimpanzees to people in Africa. While it does not harm monkeys, it was one of these cross species transmissions that started the epidemic that infects more than 35 million worldwide today.

A Nagpur University mathematics professor, V.K.

Gurtu, claimed to have found an **alternative proof to Fermat's theorem**. The theorem had been given by Pierre de Fermat in 1637 and says that no number of z raised to the power of n can be expressed as a sum of two other similar numbers when n is greater than 2.

Soccer ball-shaped carbon molecules, called **fullerenes**, could be used as a superconducting material at low temperature, according to Nobel laureate Harold Kroto. They could also be used as disease-fighting agents.

SPACE



Strides continued in space research. The US launched a space probe, **Stardust**, which would travel four billion km to bring back bits of comets to the earth. Launched on February 7, 1999, it would catch with a comet, **Wild-2**, in January 2004, somewhere between Mars and Jupiter. With a device like the butterfly net, it would collect some of the dust from the comet's tail. It would return by 2006 and help scientists discover the matter that made up the comets.

The **Hubble telescope** continued to yield many surprises. Among the amazing new finds was the unique information about two solar systems. One was in the Libra constellation, 320 light years from the earth, and the second was in the Centaurus constellation, some 220 light years away from the earth. The Hubble images indicated that the two stars were about 10 million years old.

Scientists also discovered **why satellites fail**. They found

an "s" shaped structure appearing on the sun's surface, called a sigmoid which invariably precedes a solar explosion, which can hurl 11 billion electrically charged particles towards the Earth, which cause havoc with electrical installations, power lines and communication networks

Mars continued to attract attention from NASA. After the success of its *Pathfinder* project, NASA prepared to fly an aeroplane on the planet, to mark the 100th anniversary first flight by Wright brothers. The flight would be undertaken in 2003, by which time the design of the plane, its fuel and other details had to be worked out. Controlling the unmanned aircraft would be an extremely difficult task, since there was an eight minute lag in receiving the signals from Mars. On December 12, 1998, the Mars Climate Orbiter was launched atop a *Delta 2* rocket and would arrive at the planet in September after a 669 million km voyage. Its job will be to orbit the red planet and collect data about climate of Mars. On January 4, 1999, the Mars Polar Lander was launched. It would land on the planet by December 1999, drill into the soil and bake some of it in an oven to assess whether any water vapour is released. It was expected that the spacecraft would return by 2008 with a sample of the Martian soil.

India took strides in space research too. On May 26, 1999, it successfully launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C2) which carried a satellite for ocean applications, *Oceansat*, and two foreign satellites, the South Korean

Kitsat-3 and the German Tubsat. With this, India broke into the global satellite launch services market and joined the select band of countries which had this technology.

On April 13, 1999, India launched *Insat-2E* from Kourou in French Guyana, breaking into the global telecommunication market. The Rs 220 crore satellite was built by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and was launched by Europe's Ariane rocket. More than half of *Insat-2E* capacity has been leased to Intelsat. The footprint of the satellite covers all of Asia and Australia.

Work also began on the *Shar* launch pad for the next event—the launch of India's first Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). So far the *Shar* launch pad was used

to carry one tonne satellites but the GSLV was 25 tonnes, necessitating the change in the launch pad.

US and Russia started work on the International Space Station (ISS). It was put in orbit on November 20, 1998. On December 11, the shuttle *Endeavour* docked with the *Zarya* control module to install equipment and brought aboard supplies for the first permanent crew due to arrive in 2000. After a six month break, work began on the Space Station with the launch of the US space shuttle *Discovery* on May 27, 1999. It docked with the ISS in the first link up between a shuttle and the orbiting outpost. Construction of the space station was expected to be completed by 2004.

In a rare honour to a

scientist of Indian origin, NASA decided to rename its advanced X-ray facility as *Chandra*, after the late Indian-American Nobel laureate Subramanyam Chandrasekhar. The observatory provides images that are 50 times more detailed than the previous X-ray emissions. In another honour to the first American to orbit the earth, NASA sent John Glenn back into space and he became the oldest man in space. He completed his flight successfully aboard the space shuttle *Discovery* on November 8, 1998.

On February 28, 1998, the comet Temple Tuttle crossed the perihelion and it was expected that the dust left behind would create a shower in the earth's atmosphere. The orbital period of the comet is

Top 10 Scientific Discoveries of 1998:

The Discovery that a strange force is helping push the universe apart tops a list of the 10 leading scientific discoveries of 1998 announced by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Other discoveries on the list include:

- **Discoveries about circadian clocks:** Several teams of researchers are finding these exist virtually in every cell of every living creature, from bacteria to humans.
- **Genome sequencing:** Researchers trying to map all the genes in various creatures succeeded in several species, most notably the *Elegans* worm, the tuberculosis bacillus and the syphilis bacterium.
- **The development of new drugs to treat and even prevent cancer:** Herceptin, the first gene-based treatment for breast cancer, was approved, the breast cancer drug Tamoxifen and Raloxifene was found to prevent or at least delay breast cancer in healthy women.
- **The discovery that neutrinos have mass:** In June, US and Japanese scientists said they had the first evidence that the tiny sub-atomic particles have mass, a finding that could be key to establishing the long-sought goal of a grand unification theory of physics.
- **The creation of biochips, the biological equivalent of computer chips:** They can be used to speed up the analysis of DNA, screening of blood samples and other laboratory chores.
- **Experiments in teleportation,** in which physicists managed to transfer the quantum state of one photon to another.
- **Discoveries of how infections can cause the immune system to go haywire** in a condition known as autoimmune disease.
- **Advances in combinatorial chemistry,** a technique that allows researchers to make hundreds of thousands of new compounds all at once, and test them.
- **Understanding of the potassium channel** in cells.

33.3 years. Many people stayed awake to watch the storm, but it occurred 18 hours before schedule and was visible only in certain parts of the world.

A Russian project placed a large sheet of aluminium foil in orbit that reflected light to parts of the earth that was out of reach of the sun's rays. The circular sheet of foil measuring 25 metres in diameter was launched on February 4, 1999 from the Mir space station. It reflected sunlight onto Kazakhstan. In 2000, a bigger sheet, 70 metres in diameter would be placed and by 2005, such a system could light up to five big cities. The project could bring sustainable, non-polluting energy to areas which lacked sunlight for long periods.

MISCELLANY

As the date January 1, 2000 became nearer, the world tried to get over the Y2K bug. It had already become a money spinner for India as its software companies got huge business arising out of the bug. Most computers built in the past carried only the last two digits for an year, in order to save on memory. The makers did not realise that by doing so, the year 2000 would just appear as "00" on the computers. By default, it would mean 1900 and not 2000. Banks, insurance companies and other businesses faced great problems because of this and rushed to have them solved. India, with its trained manpower, stood to gain from this opportunity.

The Worldwatch Institute estimated that there were record losses in storms, floods, droughts and fires during

1998. The total cost worldwide was at least \$89 billion during the year, an increase of 48% over the previous record of \$60 billion in 1996. An estimated 32,000 people have been killed and 300 million displaced.

Satellite telephones became a reality in 1999. One could go anywhere in the world and be connected by a single number. Even areas without phones or electricity were covered. The Iridium network has 66 satellites orbiting the earth in 6 planes. It provides global roaming facility, and users can avail of telephone, fax and pager services through Iridium's global mobile personal communication system.

Computarium, claimed to be the world's first interactive museum to make children literate, was being set up in Bangalore by the Information Technology Department of the Karnataka government. It would allow children to experiment and experience IT and communications in a fun filled atmosphere.

A "millennium dome" was to be made near London, which could cover an entire village. It allows light to pass through, and help in saving energy cost. The technology uses fibreglass reinforced

Teflon coated fabric as material. Besides construction of huge domes, the technology could be used to construct bridges and flyovers.

The Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ) became a free trade zone (FTZ) from May 1, 1999. This is the first export processing zone to be converted into a FTZ under the revised export-import policy announced on March 31, 1999.

The Chernobyl computer virus struck computers in Asia and West Asia. The virus threatens computers using Windows operating systems. A few damages were also reported in USA and Europe.

On March 31, 1999, a second full moon in a month took place, a recurrence of a celestial event that took place in January '99. Normally two full moons appear in a month every two and a half years. But it is only once in 19 years that two months in a single calendar year witnesses two instances of full moon.

The Explore India Millennium Year was launched on March 30, 1999, as India joined the world in using the turn of the century to draw people to tourist destinations. The year would run from April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000. The

country would offer visitors special packages and events.

Iceland agreed to turn itself into a giant genetic laboratory, where researchers would seek cures for inherited diseases like multiple sclerosis and hypertension. The country's Parliament gave permission to a biotechnology company to compile a genetic database that will include genetic profiles of everybody in Iceland.

Indian surgeons scored a first by borrowing a heart-bypass technique to save a woman's leg from amputation. The operation was carried out in Jalandhar and involved removing the radial artery from the left arm and using it as a bypass graft for leg which had turned pre-gangrenous.

A study found that parent's behaviour has a direct influence on the personality of children. Parents, siblings, relatives and friends were found to have a role to play in determining what a child was going to be in the future. A US study said that children should be praised for working hard, instead of being clever or smart. They said that children praised for intelligence got the idea that getting higher scores was more important rather than working hard.

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Sports Round-up



Athletics

Asian Championships:

India struck gold at the 12th Asian Athletic Championships held at Fukuoka, Japan, winning the team's 4x100m relay on the final day. Gulab Chand (5000 m), Neelam J. Singh (women's discus) and the women's longer relay quartet won silver medals to help India finish sixth behind China, Japan, Qatar, Kazakhstan and Sri Lanka. The quartet of Saraswati Dey, Rachita Mistry, E.B. Shyla and P. T. Usha chased the Chinese, who finished ahead but were disqualified for cutting lanes. P.T. Usha returned to the Asian stage by winning one of the five bronze medals for India while male quarter-miler Paramjit Singh clocked 45.95 seconds in the 400 m to come fifth.

Boston Marathon

Joseph Chebet won the 103rd Boston Marathon to extend Kenya's dominance of the

race. Fatuma Roba of Ethiopia continued her dominance when she won the women's section for the third straight year.

Fukuoka International men's marathon:

Jackson Kabiga of Kenya won the Fukuoka international men's marathon at Fukuoka, Japan, on December 6, 1998.

New World Record:

Morocco's Hicham' el Guerrouj set a new 1500 m record of 3 min 26 seconds, breaking the previous best of 3:27:37 set by Algerian Noureddine Morceli in July, 1995.

Paramjit Singh breaks Milkha Singh's record:

Paramjit Singh erased the 'flying Sikh' Milkha Singh's 38-year record in the 400 metre run in the 38th Open National Athletic Championship held at Calcutta. He completed the 400 m run with 45.70 seconds, eclipsing Milkha Singh's record of 45.73 established in Rome in 1960.

Rath Marathon:

Bhairav Singh Lone won the 16th Rath Indian Open marathon held at New Delhi.

World record:

Haile Gebrelassie claimed his 15th world record when he shaved off 1.10 seconds off the indoor 5,000 metres mark owned by Daniel Komen. The Ethiopian Olympic 5,000 metre gold medallist finished the race in 12:50:38 minutes.

Badminton

All India Open Championship:

Pullela Gopi Chand and Aparna Popat, both of Indian Oil Corporation, scored victories in the BPL All India Open Badminton tournament held at Bangalore.

All India Prix Gold Cup:

Gopi Chand beat Nikhil Kanitkar to bag the men's title in the championship held at Bareilly.

French Open:

Chen Gang of China beat India's national champion Pullela Gopi Chand in the finals of the French Open held at Paris. Zhou Mi of China beat India's champion Aparna Popat in the women's section to emerge champion.

National Open Events:

Pullela Gopi Chand beat Srikant Bakshi in the finals held at New Delhi. Aparna Popat beat PVV Lakshmi to win her second straight crown. The doubles pair of Jaseel P. Ismail and Vincent Labo retained their title with a win over the pair of Rajeev Bagga

and Vijaydeep Singh. The women's doubles event was taken by Manjusha Kanwar and Archana Deodhar, beating Aparna Popat and Manu T. Abraham. The mixed doubles crown went to the pair of Vincent Labo and Archana Deodhar.

World Championship:

Sun Jun of China beat Fung Permadi of Taiwan to emerge world champion in the men's finals held at Copenhagen. Later, Kim Dong Moon's win with Ha Tae-Kwon in the men's doubles made him the first player to win two golds at a world championship since his South Korean compatriot Park Joo-Bong achieved it 8 years ago. Camilla Martin won the women's final.

Basketball

National Championships:

Punjab beat defending champions Bihar to lift the Todd Memorial Trophy at the National Basketball Championship held at Jaipur. In the women's section, Railways beat Kerala to emerge champions.

World Title:

Yugoslavia regained the world basketball title held at Athens, beating Russia in the finals.

Billiards

National Championship:

Farah Khan of Karnataka completed a hat trick at the National Billiards Championship held at New Delhi, beat-

ing Amrita Mohapatra of Orissa in the finals. Alok Kumar of Punjab beat Devendra Joshi of Maharashtra to wrest the National Championship.

Pool Title:

Ashok Shandilya beat Geet Sethi 8-4 in the final to win the first Centre Billiard Point nine-ball pool tournament held at New Delhi.

World Championship

Geet Sethi won the Florsheim World professional billiards championship, beating Mike Russell in the final held at Ahmedabad.

Boxing

Light Heavyweight title:

Roy Jones Jr won the unanimous 12-round decision over Lou del Valle and became the World Boxing Association light heavyweight champion, in the fight held in New York

Chess

Amber blindfold and rapid tournament:

Vishwanathan Anand won the rapid title with a last round draw against Vassily Ivanchuk but lost the blindfold game in the final round of the 8th Amber blindfold and rapid chess tournament at Monte Carlo in Monaco. Vladimir Kramnik held on to his lead and won the overall honours.

Chess Oscar:

Vishwanathan Anand was awarded the Chess Oscar for the second year running at a ceremony in Moscow for his outstanding performance in 1997 and 1998. He is the first non-Russian to receive the award, given by the Russian chess magazine, *Chess Review*. The award is given to the year's best player on the basis of real merit rather than titles won.

City of Linares Chess Title:

Garry Kasparov won the City of Linares Chess title with his 12th round win. The title had been won by Vishwanathan Anand in 1998 in Kasparov's absence.

Dos Hermanas Chess Tournament:

Michael Adams of England clinched his maiden title in the Dos Hermanas chess tournament. India's grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand ended one of his most miserable tournaments of his career when he tied for last place.

Hoogovens Title:

Gary Kasparov of Russia made a triumphant comeback to annex the 61st Hoogovens Grandmasters chess title after drawing his final game against Vladimir Kramnik. Vishwanathan Anand beat Vasselin Topalov of Bulgaria to finish with 9.5 points, a close second behind Kasparov, who scored 10 as he remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, which was held at Wijk Aan Zee in Netherlands.

National Championship:

Krishnan Sasikiran won the 36th National A chess championship held at Nagpur.

Cricket

World Cup '99

The World Cup for 1999 caused unprecedented media blitz and engulfed the nation in high expectations. Companies scrambled to become a part of the excitement and rake in big profits. Even retired cricketers who were part of India's winning team in 1983 were roped in to endorse products.

Held from May 14-June 20, 1999, there were teams from 12 participating countries. The opening match was played

between England and Sri Lanka. The countries competing for the Cup were:

Group A: Sri Lanka, India, England, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Kenya.

Group B: Australia, New Zealand, West Indies, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Scotland.

The World Cup '99 ended on June 20, 1999 with a dramatic final match played at Lord's. Pakistan was humbled in the finals, most unexpectedly. They collapsed at 132, the lowest ever in the history of World Cup Cricket. The Australians could reach the total in just 20.1 overs. Shane Warne was declared man of the match for his haul of 4 wickets. Australia had won the World Cup first time in 1987 in India and thus bagged the title for the second time. The only other team to have won the title twice is West Indies (1975 and 1979). Australian coach Geoff Marsh became the only cricketer in the history of the game to win the Cup as a player and as a coach.

Lance Klusener of South Africa was adjudged man of the tournament. He starred in several South African victories, often snatching victory when all seemed to be lost.

For Bangladesh and Scotland, it is the first World Cup appearance. For the first time, matches are spread over four countries—England, Scotland, Ireland and Holland. A constant score update was available on the Internet.

Asian Test Championship:

Pakistan beat Sri Lanka to become the continental champions in the inaugural Asian Test Championship final played at Dhaka. Wasim Akram became the first bowler to claim a hat-trick in succes-

sive tests.

Azharuddin becomes highest run getter:

Azharuddin scored his 8,649th run in Sharjah playing opposite Sri Lanka, becoming the highest run getter in one-day internationals. He got past Haynes' aggregate score of 8,648 in 302 matches. The other top run getters in the one-day matches are: Aravinda de Silva of Sri Lanka (7,689 runs in 244 matches), Sachin Tendulkar of India (7,457 runs in 203 matches) and Javed Miandad of Pakistan (7,381 runs in 233 matches).

Champions Cup:

Pakistan beat India by 8 wickets in the Champions Cup final held at Sharjah.

Coca Cola Cup triangular cricket:

India beat Zimbabwe with Sachin Tendulkar scoring his 21st one-day century.

Deodhar Trophy:

Central Zone beat South Zone by five wickets to lift the Deodhar Trophy, played at Agartala.

Duleep Trophy:

Central Zone beat West Zone in the 38th Duleep Trophy final match played at Aurangabad.

Frank Warrell Trophy:

Australia retained the Frank Warrell Trophy against West Indies. The two teams drew the series 2-2 but the trophy went to Australia as they were holders.

Healy breaks world record:

Ian Healy broke Rodney Marsh's world record of 355 dismissals when he had Pakistan's Wasim Akram wicket in the first cricket Test between Pakistan and Australia played at Rawalpindi. Healy was playing in his 104th Test and got 355 wickets in 96

Test matches.

Irani Trophy:

Ranji champions Karnataka lifted the Irani Trophy for the fourth time by virtue of their first innings lead, as their five-day match against Rest of India ended in a draw. The match was played at Bangalore.

Mark Taylor retires:

Australia's Mark Taylor announced his retirement from cricket on February 2, 1999. Taylor had made his Test debut against the West Indies in Sydney in 1989 and played 104 Tests. He had earlier crossed 7,000 runs in Test cricket during his innings in the second Test played at Peshawar. He achieved this in his 98th Test and 173rd innings when he reached 213, becoming the 16th batsman and fourth Australian to pass the milestone.

Pepsi Cup Triangular Series:

India crashed to a humiliating 123-run defeat to Pakistan in the Pepsi Cup Triangular series final held at Bangalore.

Ranji Trophy:

Karnataka retained the Ranji Trophy beating Madhya Pradesh.

Sahara Cup:

Pakistan won the Sahara Cup 4-1. India won the first game but lost out all others.

Taylor makes world record:

Australian captain Mark Taylor made the world record for taking the highest number of Test catches. Earlier, the record was held by Allan Border who has 156 catches in 156 Tests.

The Ashes:

Australia beat England by 205 runs in the Third Ashes Test match played at Adelaide

and secured the Ashes for the sixth consecutive time.

Wills International Cup:

South Africa beat West Indies to claim the Wills International Cup cricket tournament played at Dhaka.

Wills Trophy:

Jai Prakash Yadav scored a hat trick and helped Madhya Pradesh beat Bengal to bag the Wills Trophy, played at Calcutta.

EQUESTRIAN

World Equestrian Games:

Germany won the team competition in the show-jumping event at the World Equestrian Games held in Rome. France came in second, while Britain clinched the bronze.

FOOTBALL

Durand Cup:

Mahindra and Mahindra (Mumbai) beat East Bengal in the finals, to win the Kelvinator Durand Cup held at New Delhi. They became the first-ever Mumbai team to win the tournament.

Federation Cup:

Mohun Bagan lifted the KBL Federation Cup football title held at Calcutta, defeating East Bengal.

FIFA World Youth Championship:

Spain beat Japan in the under-20 World Cup held at Lagos. This was the first time that Spain won the title.

National League:

Salgaocar Club of Goa clinched the 1999 Coca Cola National Football League title, beating Mohun Bagan in Salt Lake Stadium, Calcutta.

SAFF Cup:

Defending champions India scored a 2-1 victory over Bangladesh to win the SAFF football tournament held at Margao.

Subroto Cup:

Delhi's Modern School beat Christ Collegiate School in the tie-breaker to lift the Subroto Cup football tournament held in New Delhi.

World Cup:

France became the first host nation to win the World Cup in 20 years as they beat defending champions Brazil 3-0 in the final at the Stade de France.

FIFA Fair Play Award: France and England were jointly awarded the FIFA Fair Play Award during the World Cup held in France. Norway finished third with 822 points.

Golden Boot Award: Croatia's Davor Suker won the Golden Boot Award as top scorer of the World Cup with six goals.

GAMES

National Games:

The fifth National Games were inaugurated by President K.R. Narayanan on February 14, 1999 at the Khuman Lampak main stadium in Imphal. It was the biggest sporting event of the northeastern region. Manipur bodybuilder Manipak Singh lit the National Games flame. Weightlifter Kunjarani Devi took oath on behalf of the 7,000 participants. Hosts Manipur entered the biggest squad numbering 700 participants. The Games mascot was 'Sangai', the deer species found only in Manipur. It is an endangered species and only a few hundred Sangai deers survive now.

Jaspal Rana and Nisha Millet stole the thunder of the Games, and N.G. Dingko Singh emerged king of the boxing ring. Kerala regained top position in the medals tally, while Manipur was second.

Jaspal Rana improved upon the existing world mark in shooting down the gold in the centre fire pistol. Nisha Millet of Bangalore won 14 gold medals, 10 of them individual triumphs. Kerala swimmer Sebastian Xavier got 7 golds and Minimol Kuttappan got 6 from canoeing and kayaking. There were upsets as well: Kujarani Devi was upstaged by Manipur team-mate Sanamacha Chanu for the women's 48 kg lifting gold and Rana was pushed to silver in air pistol and rapidfire.

Sunita Rani completed a golden treble from athletics. Her effort put Punjab in the third place in the medals count. Manipur athletes stood out for the sheer number of events they won.

The Games closed on February 25th with hosts Manipur finishing overall champions with 484 points. Kerala followed with 481 but led the medals tally as they won the maximum gold medals—52 to Manipur's 49. Previous champions Karnataka finished sixth. Nisha Millet with 14 gold and silver medals, was declared best sportswoman of the meet while Kerala's Sebastian Xavier took the best sportsman award after taking 7 gold medals.

The next Games in 2000 which will be hosted by Ludhiana in Punjab.

Asian Games:

The 13th Asian Games opened in Bangkok on December 6, 1998. Thailand's king Bhumibol Adulyadej used an ancient magnifying glass as a unique way of lighting the symbolic flame. India's hockey captain Dhanraj Pillay carried the Indian flag at the opening ceremony.

Some of the important achievements were:

Mansher Singh and Manavjit Singh: gold in pairs Trap event. **Jaspal Rana and Ashok Pandit:** gold in men's centre fire pistol pairs. Rana won an individual gold in men's centre fire pistol. **Roopa Unnikrishnan:** gold in women's sport rifle event. She scored 590 and eclipsed the previous Games mark of 589 points set by Elsa Kotze of South Africa. **Satish Rai:** set a Commonwealth record in snatch and won silvers in clean and jerk. **Arumugam Pandian:** gold in the 65 kg category. **Dharmaraj Wilson:** gold in clean and jerk with 140 kg and silver for his total effort of 242.5 kg.

Asian Winter Games:

The fourth winter Asian Games opened on February 2, 1999 at Kangnung, known as "Korea's Alps".

Commonwealth Games:

The first Commonwealth Games in Asia were held in Malaysia on September 11-21, 1998. The second biggest sports festival in the world after the Olympic Games, it had over 4,000 competitors from 70 countries and regions.

Eighth South Asian

Federation (SAF) Games:

Kathmandu will host the eighth SAF Games in 1999. The Games were held in Chennai in 1995. The 1997 event had to be postponed as Nepal, who were to host the games, did not have the infrastructure ready.

Goodwill Games:

The 1998 Goodwill Games were held in New York on July 19-August 2. Showcase of 15 most popular sports, 1500 athletes from 60 countries competed for the \$ 5 million prize money, the largest purse in multi-sport event history. First

held in Moscow in 1986, the Games have re-focused their attention to benefit children.

Golf

British Open:

Mark O'Meara became the oldest player to win two major titles in one year and the first to win the British Open Golf title and Masters in the same year.

Honda-Siel-AGC PGA Championship:

Calcutta's Uttam Singh Mundy beat Jyoti Randhawa to clinch the Honda-Siel-AGC PGA Championship, held at New Delhi.

Masters Championship:

Jose Maria Olazabal of Spain beat Australian Greg Norman to win his second Masters Championship.

PGA championship:

Vijay Singh of Fiji beat Steve Stricker to win the 80th PGA championship for his first major title. He was awarded the victor's Wanamaker trophy.

SAARC Title:

India won the inaugural SAARC golf championship defeating Sri Lanka 2-1 in the finals held at Bangalore.

Wills Indian Open Championship:

Arjun Atwal won the Wills Indian Open Golf Championship held in Calcutta

Women's World Championship:

Juli Inkster became the world champion for the second straight year in the Women's Golf Championship played at Florida.

Handball

Men's Senior National Championship:

Services retained the title by defeating Madhya Pradesh

in the finals of the 27th men's senior national handball championship held in Vijayawada.

Hockey

Malaysia to host World Cup, 2002:

The International Hockey Federation announced that Malaysia will hold the 2002 men's hockey world cup while Australia will stage the women's edition.

Rangaswamy Cup:

Indian Airlines beat Tamil Nadu to win the Rangaswamy Cup in the 59th Senior National Hockey Championship held at Hyderabad.

Sultan Azlan Shah Cup:

Pakistan beat South Korea to lift the ninth Sultan Azlan Shah Cup played at Kuala Lumpur.

Motor Sports

British Formula 3:

Narain Karthikeyan became the first Indian to win a race in the British Formula 3 championship when he out-paced the entire field to the tune of 7.2 seconds.

Sailing

Laser International Open Regatta Championship:

Nitin Mongia of Naval Sailing Club, Mumbai, won the Laser Class Association of India Trophy in the Championship, held at Hyderabad.

Snooker

World Championship:

Stephen Hendry clinched a record seventh world title with a victory over Mark Williams in the final of the World Snooker Championship held at Sheffield, England.

Squash

Asian Championship:

Pakistan retained the

Asian Squash Championship men's team title by beating Malaysia in the final held at Kuala Lumpur.

World Open Championship:

Jonathan Power of Canada beat Peter Nicol of Scotland in the World Open Squash Championship held in Doha.

Swimming

National Championship:

Karnataka retained the overall title and Police team finished second and Railways third in the 53rd National Aquatic Championship, held at Bangalore.

Table Tennis

Asian Championship:

Wang Liquin beat Seiko Iseki to win the men's singles title in the Asian table tennis championship held in Osaka. China also won the women's team title, the men's doubles trophy through Ma Lin and Liu Guoliang, and the women's singles crown through world number two Li Ju.

Junior National Table

Tennis Championship:

Bengal won both the boys and girls singles and doubles titles in the finals in the 60th Junior National Table Tennis Championship held at Jalandhar.

Tennis

Asia Cup:

Mahesh Bhupathi won the Asia Cup Tennis Championship, played at New Delhi.

ATP Championship:

Patrick Rafter of Australia won his second straight title, beating Pete Sampras in the ATP Championship held at Mason in Ohio.

ATP Gold Flake Open:

Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi won the doubles title, beating the pair of Wayne Black and Neville Goodwin in the ATP Gold Flake Open Tennis tournament held at Chennai.

ATP Lipton Championship:

Richard Krajicek of Holland won his 17th career title when he beat Sebastien Grosjean of France to emerge champion at the ATP Lipton Championship held at Florida. Venus Williams defeated younger sister Serena to win her second consecutive title at the Lipton Championships in the first major women's tennis final between sisters in over a century. In 1894, Maud Watson had defeated older sister Lilian to win the Wimbledon title

ATP Singles Title:

India's Leander Paes won his first ATP singles title beating Neville Godwin of South Africa to claim the Hall of Fame tennis championships at Newport. He became the first Indian to win the tournament since Vijay Amritraj in 1984.

ATP Tour Champions Cup:

Mark Philippoussis of Australia defeated Carlos Moya of Spain to win the Champions Cup held at Indian Wells, California.

ATP Tour World Doubles Championship:

Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis won the ATP Tour World Doubles Championship played at Hartford.

Australian Open:

Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia beat Swedish Thomas Enqvist to win the Australian Open title played at Melbourne. Martina Hingis won her fifth Grand Slam title and third straight Australian Open final with a victory over Amelie Mauresmo of France.

In the men's doubles title, Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi fought Australia's Pat Rafter and Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman till the fifth set, but then lost out.

Canadian Open:

Australia's Patrick Rafter won the du Maurier Canadian Open with a victory over Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands. The championship was held at Toronto.

Chase Championships:

Martina Hingis beat Lindsay Davenport to win the Chase Championship held at New York.

Davis Cup final:

Sweden beat Italy 4-1 in the Davis Cup final match played at Milan, Italy, December 4-6, 1998.

Evert Cup:

Serena Williams of USA beat Steffi Graf of Germany to emerge champion in the Evert Cup Women's Singles.

Family Circle Cup:

World No. 1 Martina Hingis beat Anna Kournikova of Russia in the final of the Family Circle tennis tournament held at Hilton Head Island.

Fed Cup crown:

Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and Conchita Martinez beat world number one Martina Hingis and Patty Schnyder in the doubles to give Spain a 3-2 win over Switzerland and their fifth Fed Cup title, played at Geneva.

Grand Slam Cup:

Rios beat Andre Agassi in the men's final of the Grand Slam Cup played in Munich. Venus Williams won the women's edition, beating Patty Schnyder.

Hopman Cup:

Australia's newest tennis sensation, 15 year old school-girl Jelena Dokic and her part-

ner, Mark Philippoussis, won the singles and the mixed team tournament and helped their country win the Hopman Cup held at Perth.

Japan Open:

Nicolas Kiefer captured his second career title when he beat Wayne Ferreira of South Africa to win the men's singles title at the Japan Open tournament at Tokyo.

National Championships:

Second seed Nitin Kirtane won the men's final of the DSCL National Championships held at New Delhi. Uzma Khan of Andhra Pradesh beat Sai Jai Lakshmi to win the women's title.

National junior hard court championship:

Vijay Kannan of Delhi and Uzma Khan of Andhra Pradesh breezed past their rivals to retain the boys and girls singles titles respectively in the MCC-IOB National junior hard court tennis championships, held at Chennai.

Pilot Pen championship:

Leander Paes beat top seed Pete Sampras in straight sets in the third round of the Pilot Pen international tennis championship held at New Haven.

Shanghai Open ATP Tournament:

India's pair of Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes beat the top ranked duo of Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde for the first time to lift the doubles title of the Shanghai Open ATP tournament.

US Open:

Patrick Rafter defeated fellow Australian Mark Philippoussis at the US Open men's singles championship held at New York. Davenport beat defending champion

Martina Hingis to lift the women's title. Martina Hingis and Jana Novotna won the women's doubles beating the US-Belarus pair of Lindsay Davenport and Natasha Zvereva.

World Team Cup:

Australia won the World Team Cup title when they overcame Sweden in a match played at Dusseldorf, Germany.

VOLLEYBALL**World Championship:**

Cuba beat Olympic silver medallist China in three sets to win the women's title at the World Volleyball Championship held at Osaka.

Senior National Championship:

Reigning champions Indian Railways lifted the 47th Senior National Volleyball Championship in the women's section for the 13th time in a row defeating Kerala. The championship was held at Chinsurah

National Championship:

Tamil Nadu defeated Punjab to lift the men's title after winning all the five matches played in the National Volleyball Championship held at Tripurayar (Kerala). Railways overcame hosts Kerala to win the title in the women's section.

Weightlifting**Commonwealth Championship:**

Bharti Singh hoisted the women's plus 75 kg class gold as India finished runners-up in women's team ranking of the Commonwealth weightlifting championship held at Melbourne. India got seven gold medals and one silver.

Short Notes on National News

INDIA-PAKISTAN

Kargil war: Major gains for India but at a huge human cost

THOUGH the war is still going on the military front in Kargil, the battle for international opinion has been all but won by India. Early on in the conflict, US had rebutted Pakistani claims that India had bombed positions on Pakistani territory. Later, US publicly and directly attributed the blame for the Kargil crisis on Pakistan and asked it to withdraw the Pakistan-backed insurgents from Indian territory in Kashmir. Support for India's position came from major countries like UK, Germany and Russia.

After the detection of Pakistan-backed infiltrators in high ridges in the Drass-Kargil and Batalik area, Indian army, along with air force, had started *Operation Vijay* to flush out infiltrators.

The talks between India and Pakistan, when Pakistan Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz visited India on June 12, 1999, failed when India rejected Pakistani contentions about escalation of conflict, as well as with regard to the Line of Control.

Aziz said that India had needlessly escalated conflict along LoC, only this summer, although insurgent activity increases every year during summer.

Do You Know...

India's forex earnings from tourism dipped marginally, by about 0.7 per cent, to \$3132.53 million in 1998 from \$3151.70 million in 1997, due to a fall in international arrivals and devaluation of rupee. In rupee terms, the earnings shot up by 6.3%, thus reflecting the slippage in the value of the Indian currency. The country attracted a large number of tourists from central and south America indicating a jump of 39.3 per cent followed by 22.7 per cent from Australia and 8.2 from Africa.

E-com market estimated at 50,000 crore

The IMRB survey coordinated by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on the E-commerce market in India has estimated that business-to-business transactions would touch Rs 50,000 crore in the next two years. On the lower side the estimate has been pegged at Rs 25,000 crore.

The study included households as well as companies for a perspective on the business-to-consumer e-commerce market.

Companies surveyed expect e-commerce to contribute around 10-12 per cent of their yearly turnover in the next two years and nearly 17 per cent in the next five years.

At present, however, of the 318 chief information officers surveyed, only 20 per cent said their organisations were trying to use e-commerce, atleast to some extent.

The key barriers in the adoption of e-commerce include lack of proper commercial and legal system for conducting E-business, lack of development infrastructure and lack of awareness of technology.

Also, 62 per cent of PC owners and 75 per cent of non-P.C. owners were not sure about quality and delivery of products.

Majority of respondents did not understand the new method of buying and selling.

India rejected the claim saying that armed intrusion across Indian side of LoC had to be vacated.

Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh also maintained the inviolability of LoC. He expressed surprise that Pakistan has raised doubts about the LoC after 27 years of Shima agreement.

The LoC is a line which shows the extent of area controlled by each side in Jammu and Kashmir. It is a line drawn on the basis of where the two armies were when the ceasefire was announced after 1971 Indo-Pak war. The Shimla accord signed in 1972, incorporated the LoC instead of the old CFL (ceasfire line).

Pakistan also hinted at establishing a Joint Working Group (JWG) to sort out the Kargil issue. But India was emphatic about the fact that since Pakistan had breached LoC and committed an aggression, it had already violated the Shimla accord.

The talks were marred by handing over the mutilated bodies of six Indian soldiers on June 9 by Pakistan. These soldiers were captured, tortured and wilfully killed while in Pakistani custody. Later, India served notice on Pakistan to prosecute the torturers of Indian soldiers killed in its custody and fulfil its obligations as a signatory to the Geneva Convention.

Both India and Pakistan are signatories to the Geneva Convention and obliged to bring to justice person accused of violating the Convention regardless of their nationality.

Meanwhile, Indian Defence Officials have questioned the wisdom of having left 140 km of the LoC with Pakistan occupied Kashmir unattended during winter months.

This laxity is in sharp contrast to the fact that Army has been maintaining posts along the Line of Actual Control with China. Also, it took time for the Army to realise that the intruders were in fact Pakistani soldiers, many of them belonging to the Northern Light Infantry which comprises residents of Baltistan, located opposite Kargil sector.

Although India has indicated that it is prepared to wait as long as it takes to root out the Pakistani Army and the intruders, Pakistan continues to harp on Kashmir as the core issue which must be resolved first to avoid Kargil-like situations, and the final settlement of Kashmir problem must be based on the 50-year-old UN resolutions suggesting plebiscite in Kashmir.

US President Bill Clinton has himself asked Pakistan to withdraw from Indian side of LoC and, according to American think-tank, the US may go public with

evidence of Pakistan's involvement in Kargil if its advice is not heeded.

► The Indian foreign policy establishment believes that there has been a paradigm shift in the US policy towards India which is evident from US position individually, and by G-8, on Kargil.

Also, the Indian belief is that given the state of its economy, Pakistan cannot sustain the Kargil operation for long.

On the other hand, analysts believe that Pakistan army would not let the Sharif government resolve the crisis with diplomacy. The Pakistan army, whose image was sagging until its invasion into the Kargil-Drass sector, is fast regaining its popularity while the image of Sharif government is in decline. Other analysts say that Pakistan game plan is to lie India down in a long drawn out, expensive, low intensity conflict.

There has been flurry of diplomatic efforts to defuse the crisis. General

Anthony Zinni, Commander-in-Chief of the US central command and deputy assistant US Secretary of State Gibson Lampher visited Islamabad to defuse the crisis. Later, Nawaz Sharif government dispatched former foreign secretary Naiz Naik as its special emissary on a secret mission to India with a set of proposals.

Lampher also visited New Delhi to brief the Indian government on Zinni's visit to Pakistan, but denied any proposals for "safe passage" for militants.

Pakistan also gave signals to international community that in event of Indian attack it would not hesitate to use its ultimate weapon, an obvious reference to Nuclear weapons.

This claim of Pakistan has aroused fears of a regional nuclear free-for-all. And, therefore, today the overriding South Asian security goal of the US is to stabilize the overt nuclear environment of

Do You Know...

A full-length Hindi feature film made by a Delhi director has been completed in 12 days. The film, *Aashray* has no female lead and no songs. Most of the action takes place in a single room, a waiting room at the deserted railway station at Kanoh in Himachal Pradesh. It has cost Rs 25 lakh to make.

Bill Gates richest person: Forbes

According to US magazine *Forbes Global*, the rich are getting richer, but Microsoft chief Bill Gates is still the richest person in the world with a fortune valued at \$ 90 billion.

The combined wealth of the world's top 200 billionaires is worth more than \$ 1 trillion, more than double of what they were worth a decade ago.

As of April 30, 1999 the seven richest persons in the world were Americans, followed by Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal (\$ 15 billion), Germany's Albrecht family (\$ 13.8 billion) and Hong Kong promoter Li-Ra Shing (\$ 12.7 billion)

Trailing behind Gates were Americans Warren Buffet (\$ 36 billion); Paul Allen (\$ 30 billion), Steve Ballmer (\$ 19.5 billion); Philip Aueschutz (\$ 16.5 billion) Michael Dell (\$ 16.5 billion) and S. Robson Walton (\$ 15.8 billion).

the region.

If the Kargil action becomes too costly in lives and too lengthy in terms of time, India will then have to give serious thought to crossing into PoK to cut infiltrators' supply lines, according to analysts. In such a case, at a time when all the Himalayan passes are open, a passive Chinese reaction is crucial.

China has been strictly neutral about the Kargil conflict. Sartaj Aziz, preempted Mr Jaswant Singh's visit to China, but failed to make Beijing shift its stand.

Even though US is exerting pressure on Pakistan, India is totally against third party mediation in the Indo-Pak dispute.

According to analysts, the Pakistani intrusion was part of a well-conceived plan to sever Ladakh from the rest of J & K. The plan involved three phases. The first phase was to occupy the ground of tactical importance in the Kargil sector so that the permanent Indian defence positions along the LoC are rendered useless.

The second phase called for the Pakistani strike reserves to break out through Chorbat La Turtuk tunnel along the Shyok river to ensure that the ground logistics line to the Siachen Glacier are cut off.

In the final phase Pakistan would have sought to consolidate itself by launching operations into Leh and targeting Manali-Leh highway, the only other ground route to Ladakh.

Success of the plan would have helped Pakistan completely delink Ladakh from Kashmir.

However, Pakistan once again grievously miscalculated. Infact, it was the fifth time for Pakistan. The first miscalculation was made in 1947 when

they did not anticipate the swift response of Indian army to save Srinagar. In 1965 they did not expect Lal Bahadur Shastri would order attack across the international border to relieve the Pakistani military pressure. In 1971 Pakistanis were misguided by Mr Bhutto about the US and Chinese response to Indian help to *Mukti Bahini*, to liberate Bangladesh.

In 1989-96, they underestimated the ability of India to withstand the prolonged transborder terrorist campaign. While, earlier the Western response (read US) was to overlook Pakistani policies vis-a-vis India as Pakistan was a major tool to counter Soviet influence in Afghanistan.

However, post cold-war, ground situation has changed. The same *mujahideens*, who were indirectly nurtured by US, through Pakistan, to fight the Soviets in Afghanistan, have now become a threat to the US. For Pakistan to expect a similar response as before was a big mistake. The response from USA and other G-8 countries, denouncing the infiltration, is a proof of the fact and has put Mr Nawaz Sharif in a catch-22 situation. Once again Pakistan is expected to end up as a loser, albeit at a great human cost which could have been avoided but for the complacency that had crept into the Indian political system. There is indeed a big lesson to be learned by India, and Pakistan, from the conflict.

High-tech system to guard LoC: The Indian army now plans to install unattended ground sensors, short-range battlefield surveillance radars and hand-held thermal imagers, backed by secure modern communication and signal system, to prevent future intrusions along the LoC.

Establishing posts in the harsh Kargil region will otherwise surpass the daily expenditure of Rs 30 million in Siachen Glacier.

While the LoC, from the international border in Jammu to Zojila Pass, is well guarded, as is the 75-km stretch of Siachen, it is the 180-200 km stretch between Zojila Pass and Khor that has always been undefended in winters.

Snaking its way through snowy mountains and upto 6060 metre high ridges, the area is the second coldest place in the world after Siberia. It is covered by four to six metres of snow between October and June, with temperatures plunging between minus 20 degrees to minus 60 degrees celsius.

All these years there had been virtually no militant infiltration from the three high passes of Tololing, Chorbat La and Lanak La. This was probably what attracted the Pakistani defence think-tank as the area was quite ill-defended all these years.

(Also see Special Feature on page 10)

INDIA-CHINA Threat Chapter over

ESTABLISHMENT of a security dialogue, enhanced exchange of visits at various levels, revitalising the process of joint working group on the boundary question, agreement on enhanced trade and economic relations were the highlights of Indian External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh's China visit on June 14, 1999.

The visit opened a new chapter in Sino-India relations as the 'threat chapter' was finally closed. The visit was the first undertaken by an Indian External Affairs Minister since 1991.

Ties between the two countries got derailed in May, 1998 following some

Do You Know...

Russia has signed a contract for the purchase of the third 'Param-1000' series computer. It will be used by the Russian Academy of Science for weather forecasting, climate modelling, seismic data processing, bio-technology and other areas.

Economic News

IDBI launches India's first index fund

IDBI is set to launch the country's first index fund. Named IDBI Index I-Nit 99, the open-ended no load fund will invest in the 50 scrips included in S & P CNX Nifty index.

As a passively managed fund, it will invest its corpus in the scrips that make up the index in the same proportion as their representation in Nifty. This means the return of the fund will be the same as the return on the index.

Nifty was chosen as the benchmark for the fund, as it has been developed using scientific methodology and represents 50 per cent of total market capitalisation.

remarks by Defence Minister George Fernandes and Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee's letter to US President Bill Clinton in which he cited a Chinese threat to justify India's nuclear tests.

Mr Singh shared India's perceptions on the Kargil situation with his Chinese counterpart Tang Jiaxuan and Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji. Mr Tang apprised Mr Singh about certain aspects of Pakistan Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz recent visit to China. After Aziz's trip, China had described the Kashmir issue as a complicated affair, and urged both India and Pakistan to exercise restraint and take positive action to find peaceful solution to the problem.

The decision to establish security dialogue mechanism came in the wake of NATO's unilateral attack on Yugoslavia and the eastward expansion of US-led military alliance.

The security dialogue is expected to discuss regional and global security concerns.

China also discussed with India the need to work towards a multipolar world and establishment of a new international order on the basis of five principles of peaceful coexistence—*Panchsheel*.

Panchsheel refers to mutual respect for each nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality, mutual benefits and peaceful coexistence.

No progress, however, occurred on the South Asian nuclear issue and China will continue to refer to UN Security Council resolution 1172 which calls for the complete rollback of India and Pakistan's nuclear programme. Although it is likely to be a proforma suggestion.

INDIA-US

Brownback Amendment to ease sanctions

THE US Senate has approved the Brownback Roberts Amendment to suspend nuclear-related sanctions against India and Pakistan for five years.

The amendment has been authored by Republican Senator Sam Brownback, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Sub-committee on South Asia.

The Bill was introduced as an amendment to the Defence Appropriations Bill. Earlier, the Bill was withdrawn to protest against India's air strikes against Pakistan-backed infiltrators in Kashmir. But analysts says that was an excuse to save face because Senator Brownback did not have the votes to get it passed.

The US administration currently has the authority to waive for one year some of the economic sanctions against India and Pakistan. The authority was awarded by a similar legislation authorised by Senator Brownback in 1998, because Pakistan had appeared on the brink of financial collapse. That waiver is due to expire on October 21, 1999.

Besides the five-year suspension of all Glen Amendment economic sanctions, that were triggered after India and Pakistan's nuclear test in May 1998, the new amendment seeks to address the Entities List. The Bill, if finally passed by House of Representatives, will also ensure significant pruning of the 'entities list' or the list of around 300 companies that US companies could not do business with, as these companies were believed to be involved directly or indirectly in supporting India's nuclear programme.

Though the Brownback amendment also repeals the Pressler Amendment, which imposed the same sanctions on Pakistan before the nuclear-related curbs, it clearly favours India.

However, some analysts feel that the repeal of the Pressler Amendment is dangerous because it could lead to the supply of spare parts and other components of the American-made F-16 fighter aircraft supplied to Pakistan in 1980s. The aircraft can carry nuclear weapons.

If the Bill becomes law, it is expected that US will support resuming of loans to India by IMF and World Bank.

Sustained lobbying by the American business, which was worst hit by sanctions, was instrumental in getting the amendment passed by Senate.

INDIA-BANGLADESH Bus Diplomacy

THE conflict with Pakistan notwithstanding, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's bus diplomacy to promote good neighbourly relations in the sub-continent received a further boost with the inauguration of the historic Calcutta-Dhaka bus service on June 19, 1999.

The 33-seater *Souhardhya* (friendship) bus, carrying dignitaries from Calcutta, was received by Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina, at Dhaka.

The Calcutta-Dhaka bus service became a regular commercial operation from June 29. It would bring the people of two countries closer and contribute to their social economic prosperity.

Sheikh Hasina gratefully remembered India's contribution in Bangladesh's liberation war. According to analysts, no Bangladeshi leader in recent times had wished to recall this in public. However, she was cautious in her support for India on the Kargil issue, maintaining it was a bilateral issue.

Growing ties between India and

Do You Know...

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed on June 26, 1999.

Economic News

Inflation rate at 17-year low

On week ending July 4, 1999, the annual rate of inflation was recorded at record 17-year low of 2.5 per cent.

According to analysts this is the last phase of the lag-effect of the fall in the wholesale price indices; henceforth the inflation is expected to turn around and rise rather steeply.

A recovery has to be a function of higher demand, which in turn should lead to rise in prices and hence a higher rate of inflation.

World over, low inflation rates correspond to low economic growth, and any further fall would only mean destabilisation of the Indian economy at this point of time.

Moreover, expectations of any more goodies with the achievement of record inflation rate would be a tall order. For instance, any effect of the decline on softening of the interest rates is being ruled out by experts.

Unforeseen expenditure by the government in terms of provisions for the Lok Sabha elections, as well as the Kargil conflict, is deemed to add to the fiscal pressures.

The fall in inflation rate is also being seen by many as more of a statistical jugglery.

Firstly, the basket of commodities upon which the annual inflation rate is computed is outdated. And, secondly, the point-to-point method of computation itself, that is, the comparison of indices of the current period to those of the previous period, only gives a highly biased picture.

For instance, a minuscule fall this year, when compared to the high indices of last year, which was a bad year, is bound to lead to distorted picture.

As per the data based on the consumer price index rate of inflation is still ruling at around the eight per cent level.

Bangladesh, from economic links to a clampdown on terrorists operating from Bangladesh, have made the bus service possible.

ELECTIONS

Electronic voting in 46 seats

THE Election Commission has decided to use electronic voting machines in 46 Lok Sabha constituencies in the country during the coming Lok Sabha elections.

Nearly one lakh machines would be used for about six crore voters in 65,000 polling stations across the 46 constituencies in 17 States and Union Territories.

All seven Lok Sabha constituencies in Delhi would have voting through these machines. In addition, voters in five constituencies in Maharashtra and four each in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh would also exercise their franchise through the machines. The Chandigarh and Pondicherry seats and one seat in Orissa would also go to the polls with the machines.

The Commission plans to launch a major awareness and training campaign

before introducing the machines on such a large-scale.

The Commission has asked the Films Division to prepare special films for the purpose, *Doordarshan* and All India Radio are also being asked to issue extensive public interest messages to support this programme. These machines were used for the first time in 16 constituencies during the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi in November 1998.

The experiment was an unqualified success with voters responding to the machines well.

The machines were again used in the Assembly constituencies where by-elections were held in February, 1999, and the entire State of Goa voted through the electronic machines to elect a new State Assembly.

According to a study of the Centre for Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) made on behalf of the Election Commission, nearly 95 per cent of the electors have welcomed the use of the machines.

Short Notes on International News

YUGOSLAVIA

NATO bombing ends

ON June 10, 1999, Serb troops began their withdrawal from Kosovo after an agreement was reached with NATO commanders. The move was followed by the decision by NATO Secretary General Javier Solana to suspend NATO's bombing campaign against Yugoslavia.

At the same time, United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution on the Kosovo peace settlement, which authorised the development of NATO peace force, in a 14-0 vote with China abstaining.

The agreement was signed by British Lieutenant General Sir Mike Jackson, the designated commander of an international peace force for the region and Yugoslav Generals, at a NATO base in Macedonia.

Although Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic surrendered he let his negotiators sign the agreement only after he extracted a few concessions. The withdrawal of Serb forces took place in 11 days, although NATO wanted the withdrawal to take place in 7 days.

Another concession was regarding the demilitarisation zone around Kosovo. Serb troops would withdraw only five miles from Kosovo and not 25 miles as demanded by NATO.

The peace deal signals the end of the

Do You Know...

Honda Motor Company has launched a new hybrid car *Insight*. The car has a petrol engine and an electric motor, with a light aluminium body structure. The company has achieved the world's lowest fuel consumption, averaging 35 km per litre.

Wars across the globe gross a huge human cost

As per an estimate published in *The Economic Times* the human cost of wars fought in 1990 was: **Afghanistan:** 2 million, 1979-1992: Soviet-backed coup put pro-Moscow regime in power, backed by more than 100,000 Soviet soldiers. Rebel groups drove Soviets out and seized power, turning against each other. Civil war continues between Taliban militia and alliance of opposition forces. **Algeria:** 75,000, 1992-1998: an insurgency touched off when the army canceled elections the Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win. In April, Algeria got its first civilian chief of State since 1965, and steps are being taken to bring the banned Islamic Front back into the political mainstream. **Angola:** 500,000, 1975-1999: civil war between the government and Unita rebels first erupted after Angola's 1975 independence from Portugal and resumed in December after a four-year pause. Peace accords signed in 1991 and 1994 both collapsed. Some 780,000 Angolans have been displaced this year. **Bosnia:** 250,000, 1991-1995: military conflict and civilian massacres after the breakup of Yugoslavia, settled with US-brokered peace deal. **Burundi:** 200,000-250,000, 1993-1999: ethnic fighting has raged since the 1993 assassination by Tutsis of the first democratically elected President A. Hutu and a coup in 1996 that brought a Tutsi government to power. **Chechnya:** 18,000 to 100,000, 1994-1996: fighting between Russian soldiers and Chechen rebels, ending with Chechnya running its own affairs but no country recognizing its independence claim. **Colombo:** 30,000, 1960-1999: thousands die yearly in violence perpetrated by drug traffickers, leftist rebels, right-wing paramilitary squads and wayward army soldiers in a decades-long struggle. The country's ombudsman says civilian massacres rose 16 per cent last year, to 1,200, and more than 300,000 people were displaced by violence. Colombia has seen a recent rash of high-profile kidnappings but also moves to negotiate with the largest rebel group, **Faro.** **Guatemala:** 200,000, 1960-1996: civil war ended with peace agreement between leftist rebels and the government, **Israel-Palestinians:** 125,000, 1948-1997: the private centre for defence information's count since the establishment of Israel as a modern State. **Kosovo:** Western officials believe as many as 5,000 Serb soldiers or police died serb sources have cited a civilian death toll of about 2,000 and at least 540 deaths among their security forces. An estimated 2,000 people died under a crackdown on Kosovo's ethnic Albanian rebels before Nato started bombing. Among Nato forces, two Americans died in a helicopter training mission in northern Albania. **Liberia:** 150,000, 1989-1997: civil war sparked by rebellion to oust ethnic dictatorship. Democratic government installed, but sporadic armed clashes have followed. **Northern Ireland:** 3,250, 1968-1998: street clashes between Roman Catholic protesters and Protestant police, leading in 1970 to the start of bombings and shootings by the Irish Republican Army and then random killings by Protestant groups. **Gulf war:** 4,500 to 45,000, 1991: widely disputed even now, the estimated civilian death toll from Allied bombing has been put as low as 2,500 by US. Officials and as high as 35,000 by Iraq. Estimates of Iraqi military deaths also vary widely, starting at about 1,500. US officials say 147 Americans died in action during the desert storm bombing and ground campaign 289 more died in accidents before and during the war and related Gulf operations since. **Rwanda:** 500,000 to 800,000, 1994: a 90-day slaughter of Tutsis or moderate Hutus by soldiers, militia and others under the influence of the Hutu government, finally put down by Tutsi-led rebels. **Sierra Leone:** 14,000, 1991-1999: continuing war between the Revolutionary United Front and the government, with the rebels backed by an ousted military junta and the government by a Nigerian-led intervention force. Latest peace talks began in May.

worst phase of bombing and human misery in Europe after second world war.

After Yugoslav troops began withdrawing, NATO divided the region among five western powers—US, Britain, Germany, Italy and France. But the Russians accused NATO of trying to exclude Moscow from the operation.

Moscow insisted that its troops will not serve in Kosovo under NATO command and demanded that Russian forces be given control of Serbian inhabited northern part of the province.

The presence of Russian soldiers, who are Slavic and Orthodox like the Serbs, will reassure Kosovo's Serbian minority, who fear for their lives as the expelled ethnic Albanians are gradually returning under NATO protection.

Western leaders are reluctant to let the Russians play a major role because of fears that a Russian sector in Kosovo would harden into a permanent partition of the province.

But NATO cannot afford to ignore Russians and is legally hamstrung by the terms of United Nations Security Council resolution that ended the Yugoslav war. It says that peace in Kosovo will be policed by an "international force" under UN mandate and including troops from non-NATO members.

Moscow utilized the terms of the resolution to rush a small contingent of Russian troops into Kosovo ahead of the NATO army. The 200 Russians then entrenched themselves at the airport of Pristina, the Kosovar capital and resisted all NATO suggestions that they leave.

Later, a partial agreement on Russian role in Kosovo was reached but deployment of Russian forces in Kosovo is still the sticking point. Compromise solutions have been found on two key issues—the manner of Russian troops' inclusion in KFOR (peace keeping force for Kosovo) and joint use of the airport in Pristina.

It was finally decided to give the Russians a separate command structure,

linking to NATO but not under its direct control, similar to the arrangement with peace-keeping forces of Bosnia.

Violence, anarchy and confusion underline the dangers facing the peace keeping force in Kosovo.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon said that Russian mercenaries also fought in Kosovo alongside Serb forces and UK government has claimed that at least 10,000 civilians were killed in massacres carried out by Serbs between March 25, the day NATO bombing started, and June 10 when it was stopped.

The triumphant entry and welcome of NATO forces notwithstanding, Kosovo appears to be lurching towards anarchy. A wave of ethnic killings in the wake of withdrawal of the Serbian army has pushed Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, into a state of bloody lawlessness. Already reports are trickling in of Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) taking control of large areas and forcing the Serb residents to flee.

Whether ever-lasting peace will be finally achieved is a question no one can answer with authority—at least for the time being.

SOUTH AFRICA

Mbeki takes over as President

ON June 16, 1999 Thabo Mbeki took over as South Africa's second democratic President. Earlier, he had been elected unopposed as President by the National Assembly.

He succeeds Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first democratically-elected President and black head of government, who led the country through its first five years of democracy.

Mbeki's re-elected African National Congress government won the mandate at the polls on June 2, 1999 to pursue its 1994 goals of liberation from oppression and a dehumanising legacy of deprivation it inherited from its apartheid past.

Mbeki's presidency follows a five-year term as Deputy President—a role which he initially shared with country's last white President Frederick Wilhelm De Klerk.

Mbeki's election has raised hopes for a renaissance in a country battling unemployment crime, poverty and corruption. Mbeki has been African

National Congress president since December 1997.

On the day of oath-taking, South Africans also celebrated Youth Day—a public holiday to commemorate the student uprisings against apartheid on June 16, 1976.

NORTH-SOUTH KOREA

Tension continues

TENSION between North and South Korea escalated on June 17, 1999, over a Yellow Sea border row. The tension between the two nations started when Pyongyang (capital of N. Korea) vessels entered Seoul's (capital of S. Korea) border buffer zone. This resulted in a fierce encounter in which a North Korean torpedo boat was sunk.

US also ordered deployment of warships and planes to back up South Korea amid angry protests by the communist North.

In turn, N. Korea banned visits by South Koreans to its capital and plans to hand over the remains of US soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean war were cancelled.

However, better sense prevailed on both sides and the conflict did not escalate further. Raised tempers were calmed when North Korea's supreme leader Kim Jong-Il called for peace in the region.

The problem in the two Koreas can be traced back to World War II when US occupied South Korea and Soviet Union took possession of North Korea. Because of the super power rivalry, the Korean peninsula became an international trouble spot. It was only in 1953 that an armistice was signed with help from US President Eisenhower. The armistice has helped in keeping near peace in the region although no lasting solution has been found.

PAKISTAN

Opposition parties slam budget

PAKISTAN'S Finance Minister Ishaq Dar presented the budget for 1999-2000 on June 13, 1999 and as usual, the defence budget—at 22 per cent of total 12.5 billion dollar national budget—and debt servicing—at 45 per cent or 5.5 billion dollars—took the lion's share of the total budget.

Defence budget has been increased by 11 per cent. But the increase to Rs 142

Do You Know...

The World Day to Combat Desertification was observed on June 17, 1999.

billion (\$ 2.78 billion) from Rs 128 billion seemed nominal after accounting for inflation and increases in salaries and pensions

Several opposition parties including the main Pakistan's People's Party (PPP), Awami National Party (ANP) and the Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) slammed the budget as anti-people and anti-federal. PPP chairperson Benazir Bhutto said that the government had not met even a single target mentioned in the previous budget. She deplored that in the new budget the powers of local bodies to raise their own funds through taxation had been withdrawn and vested in the federal government.

Ms Bhutto said the previous budget increased inflation, unemployment and poverty and this one too would be no different in its adverse impact on the people. Former cricketer turned politician and chief of Tehrik-e-Insaf Imran Khan also lambasted the budget.

PAKISTAN-CHINA Sharif snubbed

PAKISTANI Premier Nawaz Sharif during the course of his China visit from June 29, 1999, lobbied intensively for Chinese support on ongoing conflict between India and Pakistan in Kargil.

Mr Sharif had hoped that China, for decades a steadfast ally, would back a Pakistani plan for a final settlement with India over Kashmir. However, Chinese leader Zhu Rongji, Prime Minister Jiang Zemin, and President and legislative chairman Li Peng took a more even-handed approach out of worries about war on its south-western border.

China asked India and Pakistan to end their clash in Kargil through negotiations.

China did, however, offer

cooperation on developing and manufacturing an advanced fighter jet plane Super 7, in collaboration with Pakistan. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard had been signed in 1997. The S 7 project is expected to meet the fighter plane requirements of both countries, as well as revenue earned by offering it for sale to developing countries. The first single engine S 7 is expected to fly in 2001 and mass production is expected by 2005.

Other deals were on cooperation between electronic media, setting up of a business council for bilateral trade and business promotion and Pakistan's establishment of consular relations between the Portuguese enclave of Macao which will return to Chinese sovereignty on December 20, 1999.

INDONESIA UN approves Timor mission

THE UN Security Council has approved the creation of a mission to organise and conduct East Timor's landmark vote on self-determination.

The UN Mission in East Timor (UNAMIT) includes political, electoral, police and military experts.

Some 40,000 East Timorese are to choose in the vote on August 8, 1999, between independence or autonomy from Indonesia, which invaded the former Portuguese Colony in 1975.

Violence has erupted between pro and anti-Indonesia groups since Jakarta announced it was prepared to grant freedom to East Timor if autonomy offer is rejected.

The situation has improved in Dili, the East Timor capital. Other parts of the territory are still plagued by violence.

First Open polls in 44 years

INDONESIA held its first multi-party election in 44 years on June 7, 1999, thus taking its first step forward towards democracy, amid staggering social and economic problems. The polling was largely peaceful.

The ruling Golkar party, the political tool of the former President Suharto during his 32 years in power, and opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri, Indonesian democratic party of struggle were the main

contenders in the race to control Parliament.

The polls are considered a major step away from authoritarian rule that ended when riots by pro-democracy student groups forced President Suharto to resign in May 1997. Polls will decide the fate of 462 of Parliament's 500 seats. The rest will go to the appointees of the powerful military which is not allowed to vote.

EU Centre-Right dominate elections

ELECTIONS for European Union's (EU) European Parliament were held on June 14, 1999, in which the left-leaning governments have suffered, resulting in major gains for the Centre-right.

The polls were marked by apathy across the EU. Only 5 per cent voter turnout was recorded—the lowest figure since the European Parliament became a directly elected body in 1979.

The Centre-right European People's Party is likely to become the biggest bloc in the European Parliament, sweeping aside the socialists, the biggest group in the outgoing Parliament.

The main losers were socialist parties which hold power in most of the EU States, in particular those of British Prime Minister Tony Blair and German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder.

Scandal-tainted Jacques Sauter, head of European Commission who was forced to resign in March by the European Parliament, won seat in the new assembly as a Christian Democrat in Luxembourg.

CHILD LABOUR Convention gets ILO nod

THE International Labour Organisation (ILO) in its International Labour Conference held at Geneva, has adopted the Convention and Resolution On the Worst forms of Child Labour.

The Child Labour Convention is supported by a recommendation which urges ratifying States to declare the worst form of child labour as criminal offences and post-penal sanctions on those who perpetuate them.

The ILO director general Juan Somavia has announced the launch of a world-wide campaign for the convention's ratification, through its International Programme on the Elimination of Child

Do You Know...

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) has launched the first of its kind rural energy intervention project at Chichikala village, Hazaribagh, using renewable energy techniques. The project has been taken up jointly with Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI).

Labour (IPEC) and other ILO departments

About 250 million children between the ages of five and 14 are working in developing countries alone

The Convention on Child Labour would be added to ILO's core conventions, along with the freedom of association, right to collective bargaining, the elimination of forced or compulsory labour, non discrimination in respect of employment and occupation and observance of minimum employment age

WORLD ECONOMY

Number of developing nations with declining output swells

ACCORDING to an outlook for the world economy by the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the number of developing countries with declining output has more than doubled from 18 in 1997 to 40 in 1998. The survey was conducted on 95 countries for which reliable data was available.

The number of countries set to achieve 3 per cent per capita growth in 1998 is set to fall to 13, downing from 23 in 1997 and 39 in 1996.

The survey, however, points to a noticeable stabilisation of the world economy, especially in the financial markets and a rebounding of depressed global prices, particularly of oil.

In spite of this, world economic growth in 1999 will remain well below the mid-level decade, and especially so for developing and transition economies.

Do You Know...

The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has declared Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Ltd (ABCL) as a sick company under the Sick Industrial Companies (Provisions) Act 1985. The net worth of the company has been totally wiped out by its accumulated losses. Against its net worth of Rs 60.52 crore, the company had accumulated losses of Rs 68.51 crore. The Board appointed Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) as the operating agency for rehabilitating the Company.

The outlook warns that adjustments in real economic sectors will take much longer to be reflected than changes in financial and monetary indicators.

The outlook says that in the short term the outlook for the real world economy remains poor, with gross economic output forecast to rise only 2 per cent this year and 2.5 per cent in 2000.

GERMANY

Parliament set to return to Berlin

NINE years after German reunification, its Legislature is set to resume its business in new capital Berlin from September 6, 1999.

Berlin takes over from Bonn, a sleepy provincial town on the Rhine river and birthplace of Beethoven.

Berlin is situated on river Spree and was German capital during Hitler's regime.

SUMMITS

G-8 Summit

A three day G-8 World Economic Summit was held at Cologne in Germany from June 21, 1999. At the end of the summit the leaders agreed to launch a new broad and ambitious round of world trade talks at ministerial meeting of World Trade Organisation in December.

They also called on WTO members to put forward, in particular, proposals that would yield solid and substantial results for the poorest countries.

They also recognized need to forge a more effective link in the WTO's work between trade and environment issues.

G-8 welcomed the recent framework agreement between Russia, IMF and World Bank. They called for the Paris

Club (which manages agreements on countries' sovereign debt) to seek a rescheduling of old Russian debt once the agreement with IMI takes effect.

The G-8 consists of US, UK, France, Canada, Italy, Russia, Japan and Germany. At the end of the summit, Russian leader Boris Yeltsin met western leaders saying that he wanted to repair relations with West that were sent into deep freeze by the Kosovo crisis.

Earlier, on June 12, the finance ministers from the world's seven richest nations, the G-7, met in Frankfurt. They agreed on a debt relief plan for poor countries to be partly financed by selling gold held by International Monetary Fund.

The ministers also pressed ahead with a broad aid package for restructuring Balkans.

The UN had also called upon the heads of G-8 countries to substantially improve the terms of relief given to heavily-indebted nations to eliminate once and for all their debt problem and ensure sustainable economic growth.

In a letter to German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, chairman of G-8 summits, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan had said that debt relief should not come at the expense of Official Development Assistance (ODA).

On the eve of G-8 summit, Japan's Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi asked G-8 leaders not to ignore Asia as they had been doing all these years.

G-8 also denounced infiltration by Pakistani intruders across the LoC in Jammu & Kashmir. The leaders asked Pakistan to respect the LoC as demarcated under the 1972 Shimla Agreement.

STOP PRESS

Pakistan intruders begin withdrawing

On July 11, 1999, an upbeat Indian government said that it had started receiving concrete indications that the Pakistani intruders had started pulling back to their side of LoC in the Kargil sector. The Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan also met at Attari, near the Wagha border to discuss "disengagement" to facilitate the withdrawal.

The move was a major victory for both the Indian Armed forces and its diplomacy.

Current General Knowledge

DAYS

Kashmir Day

June 23 was designated as Kashmir Day, as a tribute to all those who made the supreme sacrifice for the country.

CYBERSPACE

Web portal in Indian languages developed

The Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur made a breakthrough in developing the technology for publishing Indian language documents on the web.

A five-member team of the IIT's computer science department, led by T. Venkata Prabhakar, worked on the project for more than a year to develop what could essentially revolutionise the web.

The team is all set to test the technology and hopes to put all the Sanskrit *shlokas* of the *Bhagwad Gita* on a website to be named "Gita Super Site" by the end of this month. As many as 700 *shlokas* from the *Gita* will be made available on the internet in 10 different Indian languages with commentaries in both Hindi and English.

Although there are many websites carrying Indian texts, they are generally in Roman and not Indian scripts. Moreover, the text is not available in a multiplicity of Indian languages on the same site. With the technology developed by the team, both these deficiencies will be hopefully overcome.

Virtual Einstein

A CD-Rom to be released in October will allow computer users to speak to a virtual recreation of the man widely accepted as the greatest scientist of the century.

Artificial Life, a software company from Boston, has created a computer

image programmed to act as if it were Einstein. The company claims to have put thousands of man-hours into programming its Einstein "bot"—an on-screen robot character powered by artificial intelligence software.

The image will be able to respond to questions about Einstein's public and private life. Conversations can be conducted by typing on the keyboard or speaking into a microphone. It looks like Einstein and has even been programmed to mimic his facial movements and mannerisms.

The disk called, Albert Einstein A Life, is to be sold in German and English. It is expected to sell in America for \$ 49. Users will be greeted by the virtual Einstein bot that can either talk to them about his life or times, or answer questions. While the technology does not exist to have a perfectly natural conversation with a computer, the software does allow predictable questions to be answered by the virtual character.

The CD-Rom stops when Einstein dies and so users cannot ask about how his theories have developed since his death. Similarly, Einstein cannot respond to events or discoveries that have happened since his death.

Artificial Life is now considering going back to its list of famous people to create a follow-up to the Einstein project.

PERSONS

Premji, Azim

Chairman of the Rs 1,800 crore Wipro Corporation, Azim Premji has been listed as the richest Indian in the world. Traditionally into vanaspati and soap manufacturing, he diversified into electronics in 1977 and built Wipro into a world class computer company. His wealth has surpassed

that of I.N Mittal.

Puzo, Mario

Bestselling author and screen writer who created *The Godfather*, Mario Puzo, died on July 3, 1999. After the book was published in 1969, it became one of the most phenomenal successes in literary and cinematic history. The novel was the No.1 bestseller in USA for 67 weeks and sold 21 million copies worldwide. The film, directed by Francis Ford Coppola, earned several Academy awards. Puzo's other books were *The Fortunate Pilgrim*, *Darh Arena* and *The Fortunate*.

PROJECTS

Panipat refinery

The Panipat Refinery of Indian Oil Corporation was dedicated to the nation on June 24, 1999. It is the 7th Refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Limited and is located amidst lush green fields of the historic district Panipat in Haryana.

It is about 20 kilometres from Panipat city and 100 kilometres from Delhi. Panipat Refinery built at the cost of Rs 3,868 crore including marketing and Pipelines installation, has an installed capacity of 6 million metric tonnes per annum.

The refinery processes both indigenous and important crude oil. Panipat Refinery receives crude oil from a 345.7 kilometre long pipeline from Chaksu to Panipat through Viramgam-Chaksu section of Salaya-Mathura Pipeline. It will produce every year, about 8 lakh tonnes of Petrol, 9 lakh tonnes of jet fuel, 6 lakh tonnes of kerosene and 21 lakh tonnes of diesel. Among other products include Naphtha, Bitumen, Sulphur etc. In addition, there shall be about 2 lakh tonnes of cooking gas available to the people.

RESEARCH

US Scientists clone human embryos

US scientists have cloned the first human embryos. Using methods similar to those which produce Dolly, the cloned sheep at Edinburgh's Roslin Institute, they produced a male embryo comprising nearly 400 cells.

The scientists at the Massachusetts-based advanced cell technology then incinerated it after two days. They want to produce human body tissue which can be used to treat patients with various conditions, including nerve damage, diabetes and Parkinson's disease.

A DNA-loaded nucleus of a human cell was extracted from a skin sample from a man's leg and then inserted into the outer protein of a hollowed out cow's egg under laboratory conditions.

The egg was then placed in a laboratory dish and soaked in a chemical solution. The cell then began to develop into an embryo. Since the first embryo was cloned last November, the company is thought to have made many more, incinerating them all, in line with US research lines, before they reached the age of 14 days.

ENVIRONMENT

Global warming faster than predicted

A new study on global warming trends predicts that global mean temperatures and sea levels will be rising over the next century at faster rates than previously predicted. The study from the Pew Centre on Global Climate Change in Virginia, USA, predicts a global mean temperature increase from 1.9 degree to 2.9 degree Celsius by 2100. Sea levels are projected to rise over the same period by 46 to 58 centimetres.

These projections show more pronounced warming trends than those shown by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) who published their assessment in 1996. The

panel will make another assessment in 2001.

The average surface temperature of the globe has risen since late 1800 by about 0.6 degree Celsius mainly due to increase in human-induced Green House Gas (GHG) concentration in atmosphere. Rise in industrial pollution and vehicular emission levels is responsible for increasing concentration of GHGs.

Haze over Indian Ocean may affect Asia's climate

Scientists involved in the Indian Ocean Experiment (INDOEX) have found that a haze of air pollution nearly the size of the United States covers the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea in winter. This could harm the environment of both Asia and the tropical seas as well as alter the world's climate.

INDOEX is a \$ 25-million experiment that includes scientists from India, the US, Germany, France and other Western European nations. The brownish haze looks like a mountain of pollution rising over the sea and is composed of several kinds of minute by-products from the burning of fossil fuels for industry and transportation.

These elements, which include soot and sulphur droplets, are blown out over the ocean from the Indian subcontinent, China and South-East Asia (and even West Asia and Africa) during the winter monsoon when prevailing winds sweep down from the Himalayas and out to sea.

In the late spring and summer, the winds reverse as part of the summer monsoon and blow the haze back across the land, where it combines with monsoon rains and falls out of the atmosphere as acid rain.

SPACE

Sea Launch tested successfully

The world's first commercial satellite launch from a floating platform at sea has been done successfully. A demonstration payload was placed in geostationary transfer orbit from a

floating launcher created by Boeing. Present at the equatorial launch site at 154 degrees W longitude was Odyssey, a self-propelled launch platform, and the Sea Launch Commander, a floating mission control centre and rocket assembly factory. On board Odyssey in an environmentally controlled hangar was a 200-foot, flight-ready Sea Launch rocket, with the demonstration payload.

During pre-launch preparations, Odyssey was partially submerged for added stability. Then the rocket, with payload, was withdrawn from its hangar on the platform, lifted into a vertical position, fuelled and launched—coordinated from the Sea Launch Commander.

After the mission, Odyssey and Sea Launch Commander began the journey back to their home port in Long Beach, California, where each vessel will undergo post-launch checks and begin preparations for the next launch. Sea Launch has firm contracts for 16 launches, and will begin commercial operations later this year. It can deliver up to 5,000 kg of spacecraft mass to geostationary transfer orbit.

MISCELLANY

Asia's first Aerospace museum

Asia's first air and space museum of international standards, displaying a large number of aircraft, spacecraft and aviation-related exhibits, is to come up in Bangalore.

It has been envisioned on the lines of the famous aerospace museum in the sprawling Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C.

An Aerospace Museum Society has been formed to facilitate its establishment and the organisers hope to have a full-fledged museum ready by December 2003, for the centenary of Orville and Wilbur Wright's first powered flight.

The museum will become a venue for show-casing the achievements of the aerospace community and the history of aeronautics and astronautics.

Sports

CRICKET World Cup '99



The World Cup '99 ended on June 20 1999. The final match was played at English cricket's famous headquarters Lord's, with the Pakistan humbled in the finals. The Pakistani team collapsed at 132, the lowest-ever in the history of World Cup Cricket. The Australians could reach the total in just 20.1 overs. Shane Warne was declared man of the match for his haul of 4 wickets.

Australia won the World Cup first time in 1987 in India and thus bagged the title for the second time. The only other team to have won the title twice is West Indies (1975 and 1979). Australian coach Geoff Marsh became the only cricketer in the history of the game to win the Cup as a player and as a coach.

India did not win the World Cup—it failed to qualify even for the semi-finals, but several of its players made records. The first 5 centuries were scored by Indian batsmen. Rahul Dravid became the second player in the World Cup to score back-to-back centuries. The highest partnership was the 318-run second wicket stand between Ganguly and Dravid against Sri Lanka. Ganguly's 183 against Sri Lanka was the best by an Indian at World Cup, overtaking Kapil Dev's 175 not out against Zimbabwe in 1983. The

best score record in the World Cup is held by Gary Kirsten with 188. Sachin Tendulkar crossed 8000 one day runs as well as 1000 runs in World Cups. He finished his third World Cup with 1057 runs, behind Pakistan's Javed Miandad with 1093 runs. Mohd Azharuddin became the first player to cross 9000 runs in one-day cricket. He already holds the record for playing the most number of one day ties. Rahul Dravid scored 461 runs, the maximum in this World Cup.

Lance Klusener of South Africa was adjudged man of the tournament. He starred in several South African victories, often snatching victory when all seemed to be lost. The semi-final match had almost been won by South Africa because of Klusener's batting, but a fatal last-run which led to Allan Donald's run out cost the country a chance to play in the finals.

Some statistics of the World Cup '99:

Top run makers: Rahul Dravid (India)—461, Steve Waugh (Australia)—398, Saurav Ganguly (India)—379.

Top individual scores: Saurav Ganguly—183, India vs Sri Lanka, Taunton, May 26. Rahul Dravid—145, India vs Sri Lanka, Taunton, May 26. Sachin Tendulkar—140, India vs Kenya, Bristol, May 23.

Highest wicket-taker in a single World Cup: Shane Warne (Australia) and Geoff Allott (New Zealand)—20. Glenn McGrath (Australia)—18. Lance Klusener (South Africa)—17.

Top match figures: Glenn McGrath—5 for 14, Australia vs West Indies, Manchester, May 30. Lance Klusener—5 for 21, South Africa vs Kenya, Amstelveen, May 26. Venkatesh Prasad—5 for 27, India vs Pakistan, June 8.

Highest team totals: India vs Sri Lanka—373 for 6, Taunton, May 26. India vs Kenya—329 for 2, Bristol, May 23. Australia vs Zimbabwe—303 for 4, Lord's, June 9.

Lowest team totals: Scotland vs West Indies—68, Leicester, May 27. England vs South Africa—103, The Oval, May 22. West Indies vs Australia—110, Manchester, May 30.

Highest partnership: 318 for any wicket, between Saurav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid, against Sri Lanka, Taunton, May 26.

Most catches: Steve Waugh (Australia), 14 in 33 matches.

Fastest 50: Adam Gilchrist (Australia), off 33 balls against Pakistan, June 20.

England-New Zealand

England beat New Zealand by 7 wickets in the first test played at Edgbaston. Fast bowler Alex Tudor hit 21 fours but missed a century as he remained 99 not out.

FOOTBALL

McDowell Cup

Tollygunge Agragami lifted the McDowell Cup after beating East Bengal 6-3 via the tie-breaker in the final match played at Calcutta.

GAMES

2006 Winter Olympics

Turn was awarded the 2006 Winter Olympics, edging out the Swiss city of Sion, who were making their third and last attempt to host a Winter games.

GOLF

US Open Golf

Payne Stewart won his second US Open Golf title, beating Phil Mickelson by one stroke, played in Pinehurst, USA.

HOCKEY

Four-nation under-21 hockey tournament

India won the four-nation under-21 hockey tournament, beating England 2-1 in sudden death overtime after the teams were locked 1-1 at regulation time. The match was played at New Jersey.

Champions Trophy

Australia won their seventh men's Champions Trophy with a 3-1 win over South Korea in the finals played at Brisbane. In the women's section, Australia beat the Netherlands 3-2 to lift the trophy, their fifth consecutive Champions Trophy.

TENNIS

Wimbledon

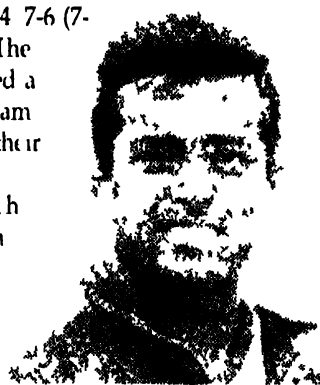
Leander Paes became the No. 1 Indian doubles player as per the rankings list released at Wimbledon. Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi clinched

their maiden Wimbledon doubles title, defeating Paul Haarhuis (Netherlands) and Jared Palmer (US) 6-7, (10-12), 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) in the finals. The Indian duo added a second Grand Slam doubles title to their kitty after their triumph in French Open last month.

Paes also teamed in mixed doubles with American Lisa Raymond to win the title, downing Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman and Russia's Anna Kournikova 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

Pete Sampras beat Andre Agassi 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 for his sixth Wimbledon title, a record in this century. He now equals Roy Emerson's record of 12 Grand Slam crowns.

Lindsay Davenport got her first



Wimbledon title beating Steffi Graf in women's singles final. Graf announced that she would not return as a player to the All England Club.

Lindsay Davenport and Corina Morariu of USA beat South African Mariann de Swardt and Elena Tatarkova of Ukraine for the women's doubles title, 6-4, 6-4.

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Appointments Etc

APPOINTED, ELECTED ETC

Ram Jethmalani He has been appointed Minister for Law, Justice and Company Affairs

Jagmohan He has been appointed Minister for Urban Development

Arun Singh He has been appointed as Special Executive Assistant to External Affairs Minister

Jaswant Singh

Luizinho Faleiro He was elected Chief Minister of Goa

Parvinder Singh Chairman of the Rs 1400-crore Ranbaxy Laboratories

Mario Puzo Author of the best selling book, *The Godfather* which was also made into an Oscar winning film

EVENTS

JUNE

- 6—More than 100 million people in Indonesia go to the polls the first open election in 44 years
- 7—Indian Army claims to have killed at least 221 Pakistani soldiers in the month-long Kargil operations. A major infiltration attempt in the Poonch sector is foiled
- 10—Pakistan returns bodies of 6 soldiers of the Jat Regiment in a state of disfigurement and mutilation
- The US Senate passes an amendment seeking to suspend for five years all economic sanctions that the Clinton Administration had imposed on India and Pakistan following their nuclear tests last year
- 12—Pakistani Foreign Minister visits India but ends in a deadlock
- 13—The Army captures Tololing heights overlooking the Srinagar-Leh highway, in the Drass sector after fierce fighting
- 14—External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh arrives in Beijing on a two day visit
- 15—US President Bill Clinton urges Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to pull his forces out of the Indian side of the LoC
- North and South Korean warships exchange heavy fire and a North Korean torpedo boat is sunk
- 18—Indian artillery guns destroy a logistics camp in the Skardu region inside Pakistan-occupied Kashmir
- 19—The inaugural Calcutta Dhaka bus

reached Bangladesh to a tumultuous welcome

- 20—Indian troops recapture point 5140 the highest feature along the Tololing ridge
- 23—BJP withdraws support to the Bansal government in Haryana
- 25—Haryana Chief Minister Bansal wards off threat to his 37 month old government and wins the vote of confidence comfortably with Congress support
- US General Anthony Zinni meets Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif but there is no breakthrough in talks
- 27—Indian Air Force begins round the clock air raids in the Kargil region to inflict strain and stress on the enemy
- 28—Indian troops kill 15 Pakistani soldiers who were attempting to capture a redgeline in the southern Siachen glacier
- 29—Militants gun down 15 persons in Poonch district in J&K, coinciding with increase of Pakistani shelling from across the border
- Indian troops recapture point 4700 and Black Rock heights in the Drass Mushkoh sector
- 30—Twelve labourers are shot dead by militants in Santhoo, Anantnag in Kashmir

JULY

- 1—Indian troops recapture strategic heights in Drass and Batalik sectors
- 4—After 13 hours of fighting, the Army recaptures Tiger Hill in a three-

pronged attack

- 6—Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif rushes to London to meet British PM Tony Blair
- 7—Prime Minister Vajpayee rules out any third party role in settlement of Kashmir issue
- 8—Indian forces achieve a spectacular success by evicting Pakistani intruders from Batalik sector in Kargil. Strategic Jubar hills are captured after fierce fighting in which 25 Pak intruders are killed
- 11—Pakistani intruders begin with drawing from Kargil
- Five tier elections schedule is announced by the Election Commission. The first phase of polling to be held on September 4, 1999

Azim Hasham Premji:

Chairman of Wipro Corporation, he has been named the richest Indian by Forbes magazine. He was placed 177 in the annual list of the richest working people on earth, with a net worth of \$2.8 billion. The other Indians on the list are L.N. Mittal with \$1.9 billion, Dhurubhai Ambani and Shiv Nadar (\$1.2 billion), K.M. Birla (\$1.1 billion), Aditya Godrej and Hinduja Brothers (\$1 billion).

Haneefuddin: The Indian Army has redesignated the Turtuk sector after this brave young captain, who was killed while attacking a position held by infiltrators in Turtuk.

Cathy O'Dowd: The South African climber who climbed Mount Everest from both the northern and southern slopes.

Shabana Azmi: She has been appointed UN Population Fund's goodwill ambassador for India.

V. Gowramma and G. Kanjilal: They are the recipients of the 1998 and 1999 Neerja Bhanot Pan Am Trust Award, for fighting injustice.

Sophie Rhys-Jones: The bride of Britain's Prince Edward.

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Which Service is at the Helm ?

With whom lies the Power ?

Who is respected most in the Society ?

Who can take decisions at the highest level in Government ?

Who gets maximum Salary and Perks ?



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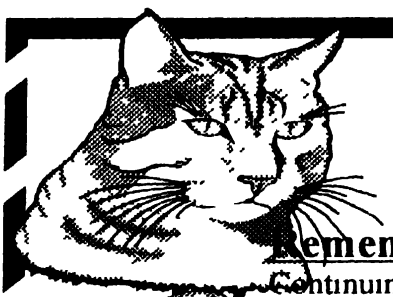
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• REWA Opp Chauraha Dharmananda • ROHTAK Sonapat Stand • SONEPAT Morla • SRINAGAR Raj Bagh Extn • UDAIPUR Subhash Ngr • VARANASI Lahurabi • Brig Enclave • Old Bazar • YAMUNANAGAR Model Town



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- 3 Your Personal Peak Performance time (to be used for your best subject)
- 4 The Right balance between the ACCURACY & SPEED can be adjudged by the O/M method => write for details)
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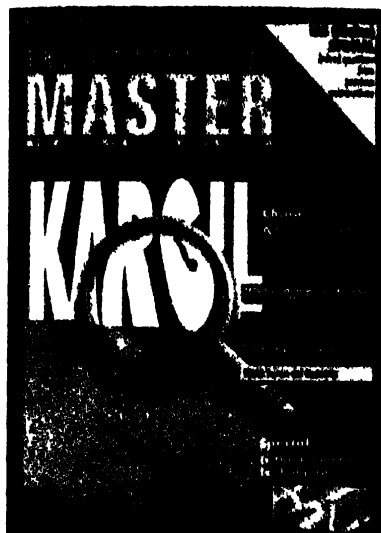
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The best two letters of the month appearing in the box have been awarded a prize of R 100.00 each. Readers are invited to send us their views on topics covered in this issue. You can also e-mail your response to letters@competitionmaster.com. The decision of the Editor will be final.

THE WAR IN KARGIL

Many brave soldiers have been killed in the recent war with Pakistan. A wave of patriotism is sweeping the country and people have contributed great amounts to relief funds.

It is shameless that our politicians are trying to give a political tone to the victory when there is a need to recognise the real heroes of the war.

*Ruchika Malviya
Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh*

The war in Kargil has shown once again the true colours of our politicians and the true patriots of the country, the young people who laid down their lives for the country.

*Sushant Kumar Bhuyan
Chandrapur Orissa*

SERMONS AND SINNERS

The Congress must be censured for loose talk, forgetting that they have brought us into the mess that we are in today. Nehru's legacy must be discarded now if Indians are to gain self respect.

*V Saagar
Delhi*

The essay has exposed the double standards of the Congress. Today, Sonia Gandhi misuses her Gandhi tag and has tried everything to gain power. Rather than give sermons, she

should show her true patriotism by first doing something for the country. How long will we have to pay for the mistake of history when Nehru became Prime Minister of India?

*Raman Jain
Faridabad Haryana*

CHANGING MEDIA

The media is no doubt changing fast, but the trends described by you can only harm it in the long run. People are already turning away from frivolous TV channels and newspapers may also discover that too much emphasis on models and film stars is harming their readership. They will have no one to blame if the trend continues and readers turn away.

*Shruti Yadav
New Delhi*

Many aspects were covered in the cover story on media, which are essential in understanding its functioning and role. You have contrasted the present values by mentioning Mahatma Gandhi's paper. Today's newspapers do not understand their responsibility and think that their role ends by publishing some news reports.

*Md Aslam Khan
Aligarh Uttar Pradesh*

MANAGEMENT FEATURE

The information published in the feature on CAT 99 was

MEDIA AND SOCIETY

The media has no doubt given up its role of educating people or enforcing morals and values. But it is less its own fault and more a comment on society that encourages such values. If newspapers or TV channels took a moralistic tone, nobody will buy their products. Media reflects the values of society, and we have ourselves to blame for the declining standards.

*Bhavna Sharma
Rohtak, Haryana*

COUNTERING PAKISTAN

We are proud of our soldiers and officers for showing tremendous bravery and courage in the recent war. They have done the impossible in less than three months. People from all walks have responded and donated generously. The lesson is clear—we cannot talk peace with Pakistan. It is time to take bold decisions and counter the menace posed by our neighbour in carrying out the proxy war.

*Nitin Kumar
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh*

really helpful. It helped aspirants like me who are preparing for this prestigious examination.

*A Ramakrishna
Guntur, Andhra Pradesh*

SUCCESS STORY

I have been reading THE COMPETITION MASTER since 1991. I have achieved notable victories in competitive exams like CDS and Intelligence Bureau. Recently, I have been selected as sub-inspector in a central police organisation. I thank you for your guidance and the good material published by you.

*G Mahendra Reddy
Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh*

CM FEATURES

I appreciate your effort to give a new style in "English Language" section in August 1999 issue. It can help one to test one's competence in Language syntax and word power. Hope you shall maintain this style to help new aspirants.

*Jaibir Singh
Bhirwani*

The quiz started by you (How well have you read CM) helps us revise current affairs and know the facts that may have missed our attention. It is a unique and very helpful addition to the magazine.

*Tapash Kumar
Cuttack, Orissa*

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From the Desk of the

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Dear Readers

How did you like the Annual Number? We already received the answer. As in the past, this year too the Annual was sold out almost immediately it had been published, and we have not been able to comply with repeat orders.

Your enthusiastic acknowledgement every time, of our efforts to present to you something interesting and useful, leaves us with feelings of gratefulness.

Life is sustained as long as it goes on renewing itself. Having undertaken to serve the up-and-coming youth of India, we realise only too well that we cannot afford to sit with furled wings.

Let us, therefore, join hands and march towards new horizons together.

Your constructive criticism and comments on the Articles and Features published in CM are most welcome. Please address your letters to Editor's Mail Bag, The Competition Master, 126, Industrial Area-I, Chandigarh 160002. Selected letters will be published and best two suitably rewarded.

Those of you who are looking for back issues can buy the 40th Volume at a very attractive price of Rs 130/- for 12 issues from August 1998 to July 1999. The 40th Volume is available in Hard Bound binding and is surely a good bargain. For details see inside cover page II.

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Tradition and Modernity

TRADITION and modernity, seemingly though in a state of constant conflict, are like a dream and reality, always woven tight together like creepers in the forest of civilisation. The one without the other finds itself bereft of meaning and relevance in terms of content and comparison. If tradition testifies to the passing of beliefs or customs from one generation to the next, modernity magnifies being modern or contemporary not only in flesh and bones, but also in questioning the established mores and methods in the world of art and literature, creative and critical consciousness, fads and fashions, and the entire gamut of socio-economic environment. When both tradition and modernity try to assess matters with only one eye open, contradiction and not confluence becomes too conspicuous to cloud and confuse the reverential relationship of love and hate that has always existed between the two.

Wherever there is coercion in terms of values or simple technology, there is disaster and chaos. But, wherever the utility value of either tradition or modernisation is taken up with understanding and sensitivity, it results in mastery over the present. The end-result is the strengthening of economy and an increase of efficiency.

"We like to taste French, Chinese and Mexican cuisine. And we can do so while sitting in a metropolis. It may not be quite authentic but we do enjoy it. Similarly, to search for the absolute original, authentic tradition in all its pristine purity is meaningless." (Prof S.C. Dubey, winner of Moortidevi Award-1993)

Tradition gives a sense of identity. There is an element of security in it, yet innovation is necessary to prevent stagnation and rot. Society must and will continue to innovate. Cultural exchange is the stuff out of which social processes are made. Old beliefs, though many of them bizarre in nature and nuance, still hold

people together. Traditions of joint family system, reverence to elders, restraint and respect to the established institutions, have been a part of human passions and pursuits in the past, and if the paradigms of individual aspirations are under change and challenge, they are an indication of the inherent strength that human psyche possesses. Moving against the current exhausts and exterminates our energy to co-exist and cooperate with the moving sands of time and tide. If tradition tries to hold us back from the glitz and glamour of modernity, the conflict is bound to occur.

Tradition is generally understood as a static corpus of knowledge and beliefs that are resistant to change and innovation. Thus, the word "traditional" carries some burden of orthodoxy or dogma on it and, presumably, on antithesis to the modern. The Sanskrit word *parampara* neither means style nor civilisation but is basically a world view as opposed to the egalitarian atomistic modernity and exists in a nature-integrated structure. It is the culture-maker, where individuals are "tuned to primordial patterns that are continually reborn".

Society's values and belief structures rise and fall with changing times. Once we saw ourselves essentially as serving God, then science, then the State. In the modern world mankind turned inward to the self and worships individuality. The mass consumer society produced both a privatisation of life and of value. In the words of Margaret Thatcher, there is no society, there are only individuals. Having replaced joint family with nuclear family, selfless service with soaring success, there is a realisation slowly dawning that prosperity and a hefty pay packet is not enough. Nobody seems to want a freedom that leaves him or her lonely, insecure, fearful of walking out of the door. There are obsessions of different kinds as well.

In the post-modern technological society, the relationship between tradition and individual has been disturbed as the world became more and more 'atomised', resulting in a growing isolation of the modern man. Western cultures, especially after Renaissance, encouraged individual perception of reality, as opposed to the collective perception of reality, a characteristic feature of the community life lived by many non-European indigenous societies. With the passage of time, the western pre-eminence gained an upper hand as it was accompanied by technological innovations.

The United States has for long regarded itself the "Centre of World" and the incarnation of the late-20th century modernity. After all it is a land of "achieved utopia". (Jean Baudrillard). In the absence of tradition (*parampara*), which is like the silt accumulated during floods and is highly beneficial for the crops, nothing else can save us from a situation where we have Bill Gates (modernity personified) and Heaven's Gate (mass suicides). Rising crime graph, social fragmentation, alcoholism and drug addiction and job insecurity have taken much of the shine off the trophies of a huge economy, military might and political freedom that are often flaunted as the unparalleled boom of modernity over tradition.

No doubt, we live in an era of transition between the dying old world order and the birth of a new world order. People in the West, who suffer the pangs of conscience in the midst of prosperity, may have the fear of progress; but the poor in the South are fearful of being left behind in the race of development. Ecologists may have reason to preach the utopia of zero growth to a society which has fattened itself on wasteful consumerist model, but they cannot expect poor, backward countries to be in the Neanderthal age, condemned to hunt and gather fruit to survive.

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The proxy war is over. At least for the time being. We have the proxy peace, now! The latter is fraught with more dangers than the former because India faces a foxy Prime Minister of a "rogue" State who is a puppet whose strings are pulled by the army which is craftier and more cunning. Both are hounded by hoodlums called fundamentalists. In this background, what is the meaning of peace?

The Prime Minister of Pakistan is not his own man. He cannot keep his word given to President Clinton in Blair House. If he does it, he faces exit—driven by the army and the fundamentalists. In either case, he cannot be trusted.

Peace is not one dimensional. It has to be two dimensional. Just as you need two to make a fight, you need two to make peace! But the vital questions are: Does



Pakistan want peace? If so, why the threat of "many more Kargils"? Does the Pak army also want peace? Or it is the Prime Minister alone holding the olive branch for the consumption of Indians? What about the army top-brass in Pakistan which had planned the operation Kargil? Have they suddenly turned doves?

It is more reasonable and realistic to think that they are licking their wounds and smarting for another round.

The Indian Prime Minister in honest trust, fell into the trap at Lahore. He should now be wary of another, more sinister trap. The killings of innocent people in various

parts of the country, especially Kashmir, will increase because Pakistan's peace offensive is aimed at bleeding India to death. Infact, the events in first two weeks of August are proof of the fact that Pakistan has stepped up the proxy war

No Prime Minister in Pakistan can survive if the army's nod is missing. Zulfikar Bhutto was hanged. The "peace" at Tashkent brought down Ayub Khan. Today no one even knows where his grave is! The problem is: for India Kashmir is non-negotiable. For Pakistan, it is life-breath for every Premier. Thus, a great movable force meets an immovable object. In such circumstances, peace is a myth.

It is only a temporary truce.

We must keep our antennas on the alert. There are already straws in the wind. Siachen is being dragged into the fray. The Line of actual Control (LoC) is not even well-marked! Sartaj crowds and crowns his folly. Pakistan has succeeded in internationalising the Kashmir issue. Tomorrow they may even come out with preposterous suggestion: Let the area be declared no man's land.

India must be very watchful. Cease-fire lines have the nasty habit of being recognised as "new boundary lines". That is what history teaches.

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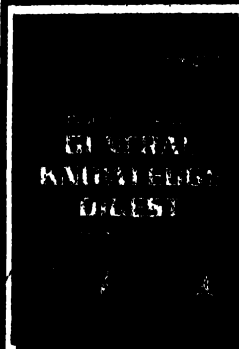
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China-Taiwan : A Backgrounder

The relationship between China and Taiwan is ambiguous, to say the least. An island 100 miles off its coast, China regards it as its province even though it is a capitalist democracy which has run its own affairs since 1949. In recent years, its President Lee Teng-hui has persistently tried to increase Taiwan's profile on the world stage. Each time China has reacted violently, insisting that Taiwan is its inseparable province. This time, a radio interview in which President Lee said that Taiwan and China enjoyed a "State-to-State" relationship has resulted in a veiled threat of neutron bomb from China.

In this feature we give a detailed backgrounder on Taiwan and examine the recent history and the points of dispute between the two countries.

TAIWAN is an island south-east of mainland China. Named Formosa (meaning "beautiful") by the Portuguese, it passed to Dutch control in 1624. It was taken over by a Ming general in 1662 and later by the Manchus in 1683. In 1895 it ceded to Japan. In the late 1940s, some one million Chinese fled to Taiwan to escape the communist rule. In 1949, it was taken over by Chiang Kai-shek, who had to flee China, which was under Mao. Chiang set up a National Republic of China (NRC) but China has refused to accept this, vowing to take back the island.

Over the years, Taiwan has developed into a capitalist democracy. It has a well-developed economy. For all practical purposes, it is not part of China. It has a separate economy and has an elected President, a separate flag and name, but has maintained that it is part of China. In the international arena, the ambiguity remains. In the Olympics, for example, its athletes compete separately but are referred to with a curious description of belonging to "Chinese Taipei" to show that they are part of China. The US confirms to the "One China" policy that recognises

Taiwan as a province of China, but is also committed by the Taiwan Relations Act, 1979, to defend the country. So, while Taiwan is for all practical purposes a separate country, it is seen as a province by China. This ambiguity has suited both sides, but heckles are raised every now and then if there is talk of a separate Taiwan.

Tensions ran high in 1995, for instance, when Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui visited USA unofficially, and China fired missiles around the waters of Taiwan. Elections in Taiwan also attract China's ire, because politicians usually raise the issue of independence then. Yet, despite talk of independence, leaders of Taiwan have affirmed that Taiwan is still part of China. Reunification with the mainland remains an ultimate goal. Mao Zedong said he would wait 100 years to bring the province back to China's fold. Beijing considers its "One China" policy as inviolable and has responded with fury whenever there is any talk of independence.

International Space

CHINA is adamant that Taiwan is an "inalienable part of Chinese sovereign territory". The majority of Taiwanese want the *status quo* to continue, which has given them prosperity and freedom. There is, however, a growing Taiwanese identity which frequently asserts itself. The country wants to join the UN, not as part of China but with a legitimate identity. Other countries, like Senegal and Papua New Guinea, are granting it recognition, often accompanied by protests from China. Election time is rife with demands for independence. The latest salvo, fired by President Lee in a radio interview, may have been fired keeping in view the presidential elections scheduled for next year. His assertion of a "State-to-State" relationship was quickly taken up by other

leaders, who said that the two governments of China and Taiwan were indeed separate.

China responded in its usual belligerent style and made a separate announcement that it has the capability of the neutron bomb, a weapon that kills people but does not destroy buildings. It would be the ideal weapon to use against Taiwan. If the threat was not to be taken seriously, it did show China's feelings on the subject. It then sent its Sukhoi and MiG jets in the strait, causing a flutter in Taiwan. The stock market fell 6.4%, its worst drop since 1966. Even in the past, China has threatened to go to war if Taiwan asserted itself. However, Taiwan does seek international space of its own and Chinese belligerence prevents that. This may create resentment on the island, even though its leaders know that by abandoning the One China policy, they may invite military pressure from Beijing. It is unlikely that even the USA will come to Taiwan's aid, since the US does not want to spoil relations with China.

The solution to the problem is to maintain the *status quo* and the ambiguity that goes with it. Taiwan may be a different country for all practical purposes, but peace may lie in not recognising that reality. If independence be the objective of Taiwan, it is clear it would not be achieved without bloodshed. That is the reason that relations between China and Taiwan worry the world powers. President Lee's assertion may reflect a desire of the Taiwan people but seems unrealistic under the given circumstances. Will it lead to the development of a full-fledged independence movement?

Hypocrisy of the West

SHOULD demands for independence increase, China will have itself to blame. Every harsh response or threat that

China issues helps to polarise public opinion. Of the three territories that China wants back, Hong Kong has already been handed over in 1997, while Macau will be returned in December, 1999. This leaves Taiwan, which will undoubtedly be high on the Chinese agenda from this year. The way to get Taiwan into its fold is to be democratic and tolerant. Hong Kong showed that China could follow "one country, two systems" approach and co-exist with both communism and capitalism. There would be less problems on both sides if similar reunification terms are worked out for Taiwan. But China's response does the exact opposite. If China wants to get back Taiwan peacefully, it must change itself and be more liberal.

The Taiwan tangle does show the hypocrisy of the West. While Western powers are willing to go to war to protect democracies across the world, they become docile when it comes to dealing with China. Here is an island republic with a democratic government, which is sought to be taken over by China. Historically, it has no claim over it as the nationalists were driven out of China in 1949 and set up their own provisional government on the island. Yet, most powerful nations having diplomatic relations with China implicitly or explicitly accept China's argument that there is One China and Taiwan is part of China. The absence of world reaction has caused China to become more aggressive, issuing threats of war whenever any statement is made on the island. In any other country, such threats and suppression of a democratic movement would have invited military action by the West.

There is no hope that China might change itself and be more tolerant of the idea of Taiwan's independence. Taiwan must, therefore, accept that it has no option but to play to China's tune, given the fact that outside help will not be forthcoming. All it can do is to hope that the ambiguity continues and that it is not hampered from its basic freedoms. It must play for time. At the same time, the West needs to send out a message that military action against Taiwan will not be tolerated. It should shed its hypocrisy and deal with China as it deals with other countries. If it knows the West's displeasure, China might even

want to win the confidence of the Taiwanese people, which might make reunification easier. Issuing threats of war is hardly the correct way to win the confidence of the people. For long-term relations, China must allow some latitude to Taiwan in the international arena while Taiwan may accept the One China principle.

Future of Taiwan

THE practical approach is to continue with the present status. It would be unrealistic to accept that the US will go to war against China, even though it has committed to defend Taiwan. Restraint has to be called for on both sides. Though China wants to reclaim the island, it must not push too hard for it and must learn to allow it some amount of freedom. Taiwan may be allowed to negotiate a representation in international organisations without declaring itself as an independent nation. This may suit both parties. If China starts a process of winning over the Taiwanese people, the goal of reunification may get a little closer. On the contrary, if it is too rough, it may kindle feelings of separatism among the Taiwanese people and harden attitudes. Should this happen, international opinion

may begin favouring independent Taiwan, something that China can ill afford.

On Taiwan's side, it is imperative that it does not ruffle too many feathers. President Lee has persistently tried to increase Taiwan's profile on world stage. Four years ago, Taiwan said it intended to rejoin the UN not as China, but as an entity with as much legitimacy as, say, South Korea. It can continue pushing for more recognition in the world, but at the same time, keep on the right side of Beijing. Any brave talk of independence can only be provocative and dangerous. It could lead to a full-fledged invasion of the island. Taiwan lacks the resources to fight a superpower like China and it is clear that no other country will come to its aid.

The future, thus, lies in the "constructive ambiguity" that has continued for so many years. It is up to both sides to engage themselves within that framework. If this is disturbed, it would create disturbance not only in Asia but in the rest of the world too. It is a tough balancing act. Taiwan must not be rash and President Lee must make a choice between defying China or accepting the *status quo*. It remains to be seen whether President Lee's statements were really a demand for independence or just election rhetoric.

History of Taiwan-China relations

1949: The Nationalists, led by Chiang Kai-shek, are driven from mainland China by the Communists led by Mao Zedong. A provisional government (National Republic of China) is set up in Taiwan, but the People's Republic of China claims the island as its own.

1972: The US, keen to improve relations with China, says it is committed to the "One China" policy. The Shanghai declaration, issued on Nixon's historic visit to China, confirms this.

1979: The ambiguity regarding Taiwan continues. Through the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, the US is committed to the defence of Taiwan but President Carter recognises Taiwan to be part of China.

1988: Lee Teng-hui becomes Taiwan's first native-born President. In 1991, he announces an end to 43 years of emergency rule, thereby recognising the government of China.

1995: President Lee makes an unofficial visit to USA, sparking off strong protests by China.

1999: In a radio interview, President Lee says that the relations between the two countries are "State-to-State". China reacts by saying it was ready to go to war to claim Taiwan, and says that it had developed the neutron bomb.

Is the Economy Finally Looking Up?

India has been going through a prolonged slowdown bordering on recession. Demand has been down, leading to accumulation of inventories and discount wars in the industry. Now, however, some good news may be emerging: the rate of inflation touched its lowest in 17 years and the stock market crossed the 4,800-point mark for the first time in corporate history. The general mood in the country is also upbeat after the victory of the armed forces in Kargil. So, does this mean that the recession is over and we are heading for a recovery and boom times ahead? In this feature, we examine the trends and try to answer the question that is of prime concern to both economists and businessmen around the country.

THE news on the economic front for the past few years has been quite discouraging. There had been a severe industrial slowdown. Jobs too have been restricted: several highly paid executives found themselves unceremoniously sacked and freshers could not get the high salaries that seemed to have become the industry norm just a few years back. Real estate prices and rentals have slumped in the country. Some of the well-known companies in the private and public sector, like Essar and SAIL, are in deep trouble. Except in the automobile sector, foreign companies have stayed away, deferring plans to enter or expand in the country.

Given this scenario, the recent figures do bring some cheer. The stock market has touched record highs, while the inflation rate has touched record lows. Monsoons have been good for the twelfth consecutive year, which will result in high agricultural production. The index of industrial production has risen 7.2 per cent in May 1999, as against 3.7 per cent in the same month last year. Industrial growth has been 6.3 per cent against 4.2 per cent last year. Though many companies have

reported a squeeze on profits, their performance is better than last year; tax collections have increased 16.7 per cent. Things finally appear to be looking up.

Causes of the slowdown

IN retrospect, at least a part of the recessionary phase may have been caused by industry itself. Riding high on the euphoria of reforms, several multinational companies had launched ambitious plans in the country. They estimated that India's huge population was simply waiting to buy their products. Overpriced goods, from televisions, washing machines, cars, shoes to cornflakes, were launched with great fanfare. Salaries of executives went through the roof—business magazines did not tire of publishing salary surveys which gave mind-boggling figures. Little did they realise that the Indian consumer was very price-conscious and was simply not willing to pay dollar prices for day-to-day things. Thus, inventories piled up and the companies had to sustain huge losses. Many of them were forced to reduce prices and cut costs.

This led to shrinking of jobs and loss of business confidence. The cost-cutting that companies had been forced to go through had a multiplier effect on the economy. Manufacturing activity slowed down, followed by services. The bubble created by high expectations was difficult to sustain and had burst.

The second factor was the impact of the South-east Asia crisis. Though India did not face such an extreme situation as other economies of the region, the impact was felt throughout the economy. Add to this the political uncertainty caused by the coalition partners of the BJP and the ill-advised toppling of the ruling government by the Congress, and people could hardly

expect business confidence to pick up.

Many of these negative forces still remain. That is the reason that the positive figures of industrial growth should not cause over-optimism. The Indian economy still has fundamental weaknesses and it remains to be seen whether there will be a boom time ahead. If we follow the theory of economic cycles, then we may be on the upswing, having passed the trench and we can hope to see better times ahead.

Inflated Optimism

THERE are indeed signs of optimism. The corporate results for the first quarter of 1999-2000 point to an industrial recovery. Net profits in some industries have risen. Software, pharmaceutical and consumer goods industries appear to be doing well. But, but a survey of 165 companies by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) shows that profit margins have remained under pressure. Cement sales have increased, while tractor sales have boosted the results of Escorts and Mahindra and Mahindra. Commercial vehicle sales too have risen, but there is a downtrend in automobiles and infrastructure. Aviation and shipping are depressed too, pointing to a selective recovery, at best.

It is therefore difficult to say whether the economy is really looking up. First, a low inflation rate may be good for consumers, but may not be good for the economy. It means that demand is slack. Expecting prices to be stagnant, investors stay away, preferring to keep their money in banks. This has been happening in the Indian economy for long: a survey by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) shows that fresh investment proposals fell in 1998-99 for the third consecutive year; from a peak of \$11.5 billion, such proposals are just \$4.8 billion

in the current year. Without investment, growth can hardly be expected.

The impact is being felt by domestic investors also. Indian industry has demanded lower interest rates. The Reserve Bank of India accepts that interest rates are among the highest in the world. Though it has been concerned with controlling prices thus far, a low inflation could well translate into low growth, and subsequently deepening of the recession, making the current rally short-lived.

The second aspect is the despondency in world markets. GDP growth rates have slowed down across Europe: it is just 1.8% and 1.2% in Germany and France respectively, while for the EU (11 nations) the GDP growth is 1.6%. In Italy, the economy has actually contracted by 1.1%. Fears of a slowdown in the USA continue to be heard. Given such a scenario, India's exports are certain to be affected. Moreover, our economy cannot remain insulated from the rest of the world. Thus, the Indian economy is quite fragile and the current trends may be difficult to sustain.

The optimism generated by the recent jump in the stock market also needs to be curbed, simply because the stock market is not an indicator of a healthy economy. Investor confidence may have risen to some extent, but the present rally in stock market prices has been mainly due to heavy buying by the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs). Whether this leads to a sustained change in the investment climate remains to be seen.

Poised for recovery

THE rally in the stock markets and the Kargil victory have introduced a "feel-good" factor in the economy. But if we consider all the aspects mentioned above, we find that the country is not experiencing a recovery right as yet, but is poised for one. One major problem that is holding it back is the lack of investment, which has resulted out of two main causes, the continued political instability since 1996 and the high interest rates that have pushed up the cost of raising capital. For the former, it has become imperative that

politics and business be separated in the country. Otherwise we will continue to pay for the misdeeds of our politicians. It is unreasonable to expect that the country will get a stable government even in the next election or that the likes of Jayalalitha and Sonia Gandhi will begin to behave responsibly. The only way out is to follow two systems: something like China which has successfully divorced economic activities from politics—while the government is communist it allows capitalism to thrive. Changes in the political scene does not affect business in that country.

Another major factor is the crash of exchange rates caused by the Asian, Russian and Brazilian crisis. This has made the products exported by these countries cheaper in the world market. Even producers in India find it cheaper to import goods than to buy from domestic producers. Cheaper steel, non-ferrous metals, chemicals and other goods are flooding the market, pushing domestic producers further into a corner. Plagued by inefficiencies, India's domestic companies are going to be in serious trouble.

It is thus too early to say that the economy is on the path to recovery. There are too many variables. However, if the situation is handled deftly, the present positive trends could well be turned into a sustained recovery. For that, government foresight is needed, which is unfortunately in short supply.

What needs to be done

TO sustain the current feel-good factor the government must undertake more reforms quickly. It has become imperative to reduce bureaucracy and to free the controls on investment. The license inspector raj is still quite strong and various government departments prevent people from going about their business. Recently, Tata withdrew from the Bangalore airport project because of government delays in finalising it. Such incidents show the unreasonable controls on our domestic industry. Telephone connections and Internet access are controlled, preventing the economy from

making a quantum jump ahead. Will such things be freed in the future?

At the same time, the government should try to revive the primary market through disinvestment. It is widely accepted that sale of public sector shares to the public will fetch revenues for the government, which might prevent the need for additional taxation. Disinvestment is expected to bring small investors back into the primary market. Thus, shares of profit-making PSUs should be put up for sale as early as possible. If the small investor is not brought into the investment mode, the rise of the Sensex will remain in the hands of the FIIs. If they decide to sell later on, the market will crash as fast as it has risen.

Finally, the RBI needs to monitor Asian and Latin American currencies closely and keep control on the value of the rupee. If other currencies are becoming cheaper, causing an erosion of India's competitive advantage, perhaps the apex bank should take to foreign exchange operations to keep the value of the rupee more in line with international realities.

Today, only those companies that are lean and mean can hope to win the customers' attention. Gone are the days when inefficiencies could be passed on to the consumers. That is why badly run companies, both in the public and the private sector, are feeling the heat today. A robust economy demands a healthy corporate sector. Government policies of protectionism have so far prevented strengthening India's competitive spirit. The corporate sector must also learn to live with competition and develop its strengths rather than being complacent.

Several studies have been conducted to show why China attracts more investment despite the fact that its legal and political system has many loopholes. The reasons are far too obvious. It is time we shed our moralistic posture and gave due importance to the economy. The government *habus* have to stop looking at every project suspiciously. If the attitude does not change, the positive results we have today may be diluted. For India to become an economic power, its spirit must be freed.

Distribution of Financial Resources in India

Every federal system has a well-defined scheme for distribution of financial resources and such a scheme is made part of the Constitution. The scheme of distribution of finances is aimed at ensuring that both the Union as well as States have adequate financial resources at their disposal. Depending upon local conditions and needs, constitutions of various federal countries in the world have specific provisions regarding collection of various tax and non-tax revenues and their distribution between the States and the federal government.

Tax Collection

INDIAN Constitution is no exception in this regard. Taking a leaf out of the Government of India Act of 1935, the framers of Indian Constitution have made elaborate provisions relating to tax and non-tax revenues, their collection and distribution. There are several taxes which are exclusively collected by the Union, but these are not meant entirely for the Union, as they do not form part of the Consolidated Fund of India. Many of them are to be distributed among the States to form part of the Consolidated Funds of States. These are used to supplement the revenues of the States and are used by them in accordance to their needs. This provision recognizes the limitation of the resources of the States and growing needs of the community in a welfare State. In other words, the Union and the States in India together form one organic whole for the purposes of utilisation of resources of the territories of India as a whole.

The Constitution of India makes a distinction between the power to levy a tax and the power to appropriate the proceeds of a tax so levied. As per the entries in the Union and State Lists in Schedule-VII, the legislative power to make a law for imposing a tax is divided between the Union and the States. While

the Parliament has the power to levy income tax on all incomes other than the agriculture income, the State governments are competent to levy tax on agricultural incomes, including imposition of land revenue. Similarly, as per entry No. 54, the power to impose Sales Tax is with the States, but taxes on imports and exports and sales in the course of inter-State trade and commerce can exclusively be levied by the Union. States, however, are prohibited from levying taxes on sale and purchase taking place outside the State, as well as on the sale and purchase taking place in the course of import into and exports out of India. Power to levy sales tax on the sales taking place in the course of inter-State trade is within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Union government. The Union government has also declared certain goods as goods of special importance in the inter-State trade.

In addition to above no tax on consumption and sale of electricity can be imposed if it is consumed by the Government of India or consumed in construction, maintenance or operation of any railway, either by the government of India or any other company. Further, the properties of the Union are exempt from the State taxation and vice versa. These provisions clearly earmark the respective areas in which the units of federation, i.e. States and the Union, are empowered by the Parliament to levy and collect the taxes. If while determining the taxability of a particular good by a State arises between the States or any State and the Union, the dispute can be settled by approaching the Supreme Court of India. The detailed and clearly delineated provisions are, however, aimed at ensuring that no dispute takes place and the taxes are levied and collected by the States and the Union as per the laid down provisions.

Proceeds Sharing

THE framers of the Constitution were convinced that the spheres of taxation given for levy and collection to the States may not be sufficient enough to meet the expenditures of the States. Hence, special provisions have been added in the Constitution regarding distribution of proceeds of various taxes. Broadly, there are three categories so far as distribution/appropriation of tax proceeds are concerned. Firstly, there are certain duties which are leviable by the Union but are to be collected and entirely appropriated by the States. These include Excise duties on medicinal and toilet preparations containing alcohol and stamps duties on bills of Exchange.

Second category is of the taxes which are both levied and collected by the Union, but their proceeds are then assigned by the Union to the States within which they have been levied. These include duties on succession to non-agricultural property, estate duty on non-agricultural property, terminal taxes on goods or passengers carried by Railways, air or sea, taxes on rail fares and freight, taxes on sale of and advertisements in newspapers, Central Sales Tax and taxes on inter-State consignment of goods.

Finally, there are taxes which are levied and collected by the Union, but the proceeds are distributed between the Union and the States in a certain proportion to ensure equitable distribution of financial resources. These taxes include income tax and excise duties, other than the duties on medicinal and toilet preparations, for which separate provisions have been made. In addition to these three special provisions, there are certain taxes belonging to the Union exclusively, including corporation tax, custom duties, surcharge on income tax and fees in respect of the matters in the

Union List. Similarly, certain taxes have been assigned to the States exclusively, including Land Revenue, residual Stamp Duties, Succession duty, Estate duty and Income-tax on agricultural lands, taxes on passengers and goods carried on inland waterways and roads, sales-tax, toll tax, entry tax, taxes on luxuries, boats, animals, vehicles, advertisements, consumption of electricity, entertainments, buildings, minerals, professions, trades etc.

In addition to the above, both the Union and the States also have their non-tax revenues. The Union government receives non-tax revenues from Railways, Posts and Telegraphs, Broadcasting, Currency and Mint and commercial undertakings of the Union including Air India, Indian Airlines, Industrial Finance Corporation, Steel Authority of India and other similar Central Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs). Similarly, the States also collect their non-tax revenues from Forests, Irrigation, Mining and various State PSEs, including the ones engaged in electricity generation and distribution, road transport, fishing, paper and milk supply etc.

Finance Commission

THE pattern of levy, collection and distribution of proceeds among the Union and the States is well-defined in the Constitution, except for the taxes which are levied and collected by the Union. Article 280 of the Indian Constitution provides for constitution of a Finance Commission for every five years to recommend to the President of India certain measures relating to distribution of financial resources, including the percentage of Income-tax proceeds to be assigned to the States as well as to the Union and the manner in which the share of respective States and the Union is to be determined.

The Chairman of the Finance Commission must be a person having experience in public affairs. In addition, there are four more members which include a legal expert, expert in economics, expert in financial matters and administration and a person having special knowledge of finances and accounts of the government. The Finance

Commission is required to make recommendations to the President on the following:

(a) The distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes which are required to be divided among them, and allocation of respective shares of the States;

(b) the principles governing grants-in-aid to the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India; and

(c) any other matter referred to the commission by the President.

In addition to the above, 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts of 1992 have added two more terms of reference on which the Finance Commissions are now required to make recommendations. These are measures needed to augment the Consolidated Funds of the States to supplement the resources of the *Panchayats* and Municipalities in the States.

From time-to-time the respective Finance Commission has enhanced the share of the States and reduced that of the Union in respect of Income tax and Excise duties sharing. A new system of assisting 10 hilly States, including those of the north-east Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir has been evolved by clubbing these States in the classification of "Special category States" and ensuring that they get sufficiently more funds than their share as per the common formula for all other States.

Eleventh Finance Commission was appointed by the government in July, 1998 with an eminent economist, Prof. A.M. Khusro, as its Chairman. The Commission has been asked to submit its recommendations to the President of India by December 31, 1999. Considering the fact that the time given to the Commission is shorter than usual, and the fact that Lok Sabha polls in September may delay the interaction of the Commission with all the State governments, it appears highly unlikely that the Commission would be able to accomplish its task within the given time schedule, more particularly when the Commission has had detailed discussions only with thirteen State governments till June 1999. The recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission would suggest measures for devolution of tax proceeds for the period between the years

2000 to 2005.

Eleventh Finance Commission is unique in itself in many ways. Firstly, it has two prominent economists: Prof. A.M. Khusro and Dr Amaresh Bagchi. Secondly, the Eleventh Finance Commission would be the first to make recommendations to augment the Consolidated Funds of the States with a view to supplement the resources of local self-governments given the Constitutional status in the recent past. In addition, the Commission has, for the first time, been entrusted with extremely difficult task of strengthening and restructuring the financial management by the State governments. Last but not the least, the Commission is probably the first Finance Commission to have called an exclusive meeting of the Finance Ministers of the special category States.

The system of distribution of financial resources, as envisaged in the Constitution, has worked very well so far and in most of the cases, the recommendations made by the successive Finance Commission were accepted by the governments in power. The only exception was the Report of the 8th Finance Commission, recommendations under which were not accepted by the government on the ground of the financial difficulties of the Union and late receipt of the Report of the Commission. Such actions on part of the government are, however, against the true federal spirit of the Constitution.

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Model Paragraphs

"In times of adversity it is infinitely advantageous to be near a wise man."

Valmiki Ramayana

Human life, as we all know, is a touching tale of trials and tribulations, trepidation and trauma. Angst and adversity happen in life as naturally as anger and anxiety. Caught in the cross-fire of kicks and knocks, tears and jeers, the best course open for an ordinary mortal is to sit near a wise man and seek his wise counsel and august advice. Nothing stands by a beleaguered person as steadfast as the opinion of a wise man who has weathered many a storm in his own life but never allowed adversity to take a better of him. Human valour lies both in taking a wise man's guidance in times of troubles, and also facing the onslaught of adverse circumstances that may try to overwhelm an individual with guts and grit. Adversity can become an opportunity as well if we do not lose our discretion and balance of mind. In moments of crisis and confusion, the wise man is our only hope and anchor.

"Law without justice is like an egg without its yolk and much of its salt."

Law and justice are like a body and soul and both are as integral to each other as the well to water. No civilised society can claim to be just and fair if its citizens are denied the fruits of justice in the presence of many a law on the statute book. Just as a human heart without its rhythmic beats is dead-wood, similarly a law without justice to the people at large is a dead letter. In order to make an object useful and desirable, its substance and essence must work in

tandem and total harmony. People's craving for speedy and inexpensive justice is a right that can admit of no dilution under any circumstances. The mere presence of law without quick dispensation of justice to the affected persons makes it redundant and unreliable. Lest justice becomes a cry in the wilderness, the law-enforcing and interpreting authorities must see to it that not only justice is done but also universally believed to have been done. The taste of pudding lies in its eating.

"If you are easily accessible and careful, the world will pay you homage."

Tirukkoral

What makes a person venerable is not his pelf and position but an easy accessibility and concern for one and all. Those living in ivory towers may acquire the halo of a mystic or a mysterious person, but a person of flesh and bones, without any misplaced sense of self-importance is nearer other human beings who sail in the same boat of life as he does. Just as the brave deserve the fair, similarly if a person is easily available for help and counsel and he proves his credentials as a man of care, courtesy and consideration, he makes a distinct niche for himself in the hearts of friends and foes. Besides the gratitude that he earns for his selfless services to others, he endears himself to all, irrespective of caste, colour and creed. Since man is a social animal, his attitude and approach should be such that he proves himself a mere tool or medium which others in need can use and benefit. Being easily accessible and careful are qualities that one has to cultivate so that both the giver and the

beneficiary are blessed. If by God's grace, any one of us is gifted with material, emotional or spiritual distinctions, he or she should come forward to share them with those who are not so lucky.

"Pay attention to your enemies, for they are the first to discover your mistakes."

Antisthenes

Though candidly contradictory in tone and tenor, it is our enemies who keep us on our toes and make us acutely aware of our mistakes, which even our best friends may hesitate to speak out. A wise enemy is much better than a stupid sycophant, because the former warns us of the ensuing dangers and ditches ahead whereas the latter tries to feed our fond fancies and consequently makes us completely complacent. It is in the fitness of things that one should always listen to one's enemy because he is the one person who discovers our mistakes and puts us on the alert. In the mirror that our friend hold to us, we may fail to see our real character that comprises both our strengths and weaknesses. The enemy, who is determined to settle scores with us, is always on the look out of our Achilles' heel and that is what we ought to know in advance in this world where we have to wage many a battle, and strive for many a struggle before we realise our dreams and fulfil our aspirations. To be in a state of lethargy, for one reason or the other, is to invite trouble and thus become a victim of defeat and derision. It hardly matters if our follies or foibles are pointed out by our enemies, because what matters the most in life is the right lessons learnt in time and the mistakes so discovered, rectified or corrected as early as possible.

Are Big Dams Necessary?

Even if Booker Award winner Arundhati Roy had not brought the agitation about the Narmada dam into national focus by writing a moving essay and donating her prize money to the Narmada Bachao Andolan, the debate about big dams was unlikely to be resolved easily. On the one hand are the proponents of the dams, who argue for increased electricity generation and irrigation potential of such dams and on the other are the activists who say that the claims of benefits are false and that dams have caused great misery and displacement of poor people. In this issue we debate the issue.

Mr A We face a great dilemma these days. Countries like India and China have huge populations, but many living in the countryside suffer floods and droughts regularly; they have no electricity and basic amenities. Big dams were supposed to be an answer to all these problems. They could regulate the discharge of water, and canals would take the precious resource to unirrigated areas. Electricity could be generated in an environment-friendly way. It was believed that these dams would usher in prosperity all around. Based on this belief, India has built 3,600 dams and 1,000 more are being built, making the country the third largest dam builder in the world. However, after more than 50 years of following this line of thinking, doubts have emerged whether these dams really fulfil the purpose that they were built for. Booker prize winner Arundhati Roy has brought to light some important figures relating to big dams. Despite so many dams that the country has built, the country has more drought-prone and flood-prone area than it had in 1947. More than 80 per cent of rural households have no electricity, 250 million people have no access to safe drinking water, and over 350 million live below the poverty line. Food production has risen, but big dams account for only

12 per cent of the increase. Above all, big dams alone have displaced 33-40 million people, most of them dalits or tribal people. These figures certainly point to the fact that big dams have not lived up to their expectations. There is something basically wrong, and we must try to find out what exactly it is.

Mr B The figures are compelling, no doubt, but I must say that the debate is clouded by sentimental outbursts and accusations from both sides. The truth is perhaps somewhere in between. First, we have to accept that we do need electricity and drinking water. Rural populations are at the mercy of the elements; every year property and lives are lost due to droughts and floods. The only way out is to regulate the water. And this can only be done through big dams. It is wrong to discount the benefits of all dams. The standard of living in our country has improved considerably since 1947, and some part of it is surely due to the increased electricity that we generate. Take the case of Punjab—the prosperity of the State is due to one single factor, the Bhakra dam. It has ensured that water is available round the year; electricity has helped farmers to grow crops; canals have taken the water right through Rajasthan. Maybe in some cases dams have not been well-conceived, but is it right to criticise all the dams? Surely we should look at the benefits objectively.

Mr C That is exactly what the activists are demanding. Unfortunately, all studies conducted by the government, all data submitted to the World Bank for funding, information about rehabilitation—everything is a State secret. Nobody has a right to these documents. If the State has nothing to

hide and is really doing something for the good of the people, why the secrecy? Usually, the State says something, while the facts on the ground are the complete opposite. India has built 3,600 dams, so why is the information on their benefits or the rehabilitation of the displaced population not made public? While the government protects its data under the Official Secrets Act, the figures given by independent studies as quoted by Arundhati Roy are compelling: to give one example, she says that the Bagri dam cost 10 times the budget, submerged three times more land, and irrigates only 5 per cent of the area that was claimed. Instead of giving the actual figures, if any, on the dams built so far, Roy is attacked for writing the essay. It would be better if the Official Secrets Act is removed, at least regarding decisions which affect the people. If they are to be displaced to make way for large dams, they have a right to know how they will be benefited, and what has been the actual record of meeting promises made by the government.

Mr D I think we get too carried away by sentimental points created by the likes of Medha Patkar and Arundhati Roy. Can we really ignore the fact that we are self-sufficient in food production and have made strides in other areas? Can our agriculture or industry really develop without building roads and power plants? I am afraid that the anti-dam people live in a make-believe world and romanticise the traditional way of life which is not romantic at all. Today, people have some basic comforts. True, there are many grey areas but we cannot discard the gains made in the last 50 years. Both nuclear and thermal power are polluting and dams are a source of clean electricity. We should encourage

dams, rather than criticise them. The Gandhian way may sound very good but can we really go back to the old lifestyles? To give an example, horse-carts look nice, but it is not possible to give up cars and vehicles and go for horse-carts in a big way. Modernisation cannot be pushed back

Mr E The question is, development for whom? While the poor villagers are uprooted from their homes, it is the cities that get more water and electricity. Just take a look at the electricity position in small towns and villages. In cities we write letters in newspapers if we do not get power for a few hours, but villages have to go for days without electricity. In villages, people have to walk for miles just to fetch drinking water. Children have to drop out from schools because they must help in the house-work. Yet, we say that the dams have helped the rural people. The truth is something else. Dams help the urban-based elites and the benefits flow to the cities. Not a thought is given to the people who are displaced. Several studies have indicted the World Bank of funding questionable projects in poor countries. Let us think of the people for a while. Why should 50,000 people be prepared to die instead of being rehabilitated? Why is the State suppressing the movement so brutally? The people are telling us something which we are not prepared to accept. After all, if the dam was going to benefit them, why should they protest so much? Why should the State be so stubborn? If we care to answer these questions we may discover that something is seriously wrong with the development process.

Mr A There is nothing wrong with development. Those who protest are rabble rousing romantics who are simply creating trouble for the dam builders. After independence, we realised that modernisation would require harnessing our resources, water being one of them. Being a tropical country, we get much rainfall in two months but for majority of the year the land remains dry. If reservoirs were created, the problems of

flood and drought would be solved. Electricity generation would be an added advantage. That is why Jawaharlal Nehru called dams "the temples of modern India". They have helped realise some of these hopes, with active help from the World Bank. Dam-building became associated with nation-building. It may be time now to assess the situation in the light of experiences all over the world. After all, we do not live in a totalitarian State like China, where all debate is banned despite the fact that a single dam—the Three Gorges dam—will displace an estimated 1.3 million people and submerge thousands of villages. We should not be afraid of debate the facts.

Mr B I am in favour of dams. These days, unfortunately, misguided people opt for environmental activism because it is fashionable. It gives them an opportunity to show that they care for the planet whereas they are only interested in their own fame. So problems are created in all projects, since it is easy to get your name in the newspapers by organising a small protest. This eco-terrorism has to stop. People should be given the opportunity to speak up when the project is conceived. Any protests after the building work starts should not be tolerated. Debate does not mean that problems be created for everything that is planned to be done. The nation has to bear a great cost in terms of delayed and incomplete projects. A system should be made so that all objections are heard and recorded before construction starts and after that no dissent should be tolerated. We know that in our country work is normally done at a leisurely pace and if we keep creating problems, nothing will ever get done. Is this what we want? Should we not progress?

Mr C Nobody is against progress. The only thing is that the costs of these projects should be adequately considered. For so many projects, we have failed to see the human cost. Today, more than 50 million people have been displaced in our country. They have swelled the ranks of beggars and ser-

vants in urban homes. There is something wrong in this kind of development. Yes, we started building dams, but what prevents us from assessing their costs and benefits today? Is it foolish to correct our mistakes? We should have an open mind. We have to ask why in developed countries, big dams are today being de-commissioned. They have created floods, water-logging and salinity. International aid has flowed for such projects but it has never been without pre-conditions. For example, the aid for Pergau Dam in Malaysia came with the condition that the country would buy British arms. Today, India is the recipient of the world's toxic wastes. Why? All that we are asking is that the facts be made public. There is no need for official secrets when the lives of the people are at stake. And alternatives do exist. Smaller dams, as the ones made in Norway and Sweden, are the answer. Traditional water harvesting schemes are another solution.

Mr D There are many issues involved in this discussion, including the very concept of democracy and development. Someone has remarked that development is the most dangerous concept ever thought of by man. It destroys the environment and the people. Secondly, if huge numbers of people have to suffer so much, is it democratic to push for large projects? Let us consider whether we, the urban dwellers, can give up our flats and homes and accept to be settled elsewhere by the State. So why should the poor villagers be forced to give up their homes? The debate cannot be easily resolved. The least that can be done is to look at the problems afresh, with an open mind. The Official Secrets Act must be abolished, at least for issues that affect the people. Let us not denigrate the people who are willing to drown in the dam.

Join the Debate at
<http://www.competitionmaster.com>

Cracking the CAT

This is the second article in our series on Common Admission Test (CAT) conducted for the Indian Institutes of Management and other institutes. The first article appeared in our July issue and explained how the preparation should be done. This time we explain how CAT can be cleared and what the test-taking strategies should be. The idea is to start early and develop the skills and psychological set-up which will pave your path to success.

How does one clear the CAT? This question surely bothers many aspirants. Many look for one formula which will make them successful. Others hope that by doing some arithmetic sums or mugging up a word-list, they can improve their English and quantitative skills. Coaching schools publish outrageous claims hoping to cash in on the craze for MBA programmes; then there are apocryphal stories about certain successful people who cleared the exam without any preparation. Others think that by marking the choices randomly they can get to a good score.

It is important to sift through the claims and arrive at a realistic picture oneself. Let us first look at the facts: there are around 185 questions in the paper, divided in the four sections of Maths, Data Interpretation, English and Comprehension. Reasoning questions are found both in Quantitative and in the English section. The time allowed is two hours, which gives less than one minute per question. One has to be very fast indeed to be able to read the question, comprehend what is asked, make a calculation or two and then mark the answer. Along with speed, one must be accurate as well, since there is negative marking and mistakes will result in a negative score.

Speed with accuracy can only be developed through regular practice. One's

mental make-up is also very important. For example, if you need a calculator for doing simple additions and subtractions, it would not be possible to develop mental maths by doing a few sums. If you do not have the habit of reading books and magazines, you will find it difficult indeed to attempt the Comprehension section, in which you have to read a passage and answer the questions on it. So the preparation involves developing the required personality right from school. A few months of study or coaching classes are unlikely to help if you lack any of the above qualities

Work smartly

CAT is an examination that judges how smartly you think. It tests *intelligence per minute*, not just your ability to solve sums. You have to perform under pressure, since time is limited. The idea is to keep your cool and not give in to panic. The ability to be acquired is to *work smart*, as opposed to working hard. This means manipulating the choices, doing mental calculations and arriving at the answer fast, rather than doing it through conventional methods. Approximation techniques should be mastered. Do not waste time trying to learn esoteric techniques but spend some time learning the tables, percentages, squares and square roots of numbers.

Start by preparing the basics from class 10 books. After that, take some full-length tests of the pattern of CAT to assess your score. Some tests which you can attempt are available in the Master Guide for MBA Entrance, published by Khanna Brothers. These tests will help you practice and arrive at a good approximation of your scores. One Mock-CAT is published in THE COMPETITION MASTER every year which helps you arrive at the closest approximation of the actual score. The

Mock-CAT gives your percentile on a national scale, since people from all over India participate in it.

Some precautions must be taken while appearing in full-length tests. There is a tendency to spend time on one particular section only, if many questions are unattempted. However, one should work by the clock and devote just half-an-hour per section. When this time is over, it is advisable to move on to the next section no matter how many questions have been attempted. Before starting, please look at the section and try to locate the questions which appear easy. Do not start attempting blindly. If you encounter any difficult question, simply skip it. Do not spend time trying to solve it, since you will waste time on it.

The paper will have some easy questions and some difficult ones. The student must develop the judgement to locate the easy questions. There will be some "speed-breakers", which cannot be attempted in one minute at all. These are actually teasers and a person is tempted to waste time solving them. But it is important to avoid the speed breakers and locate the easy questions.

Section-wise approach

Let us see what strategies can be followed in the different sections. One must follow the strategy that one has decided earlier: do not try to experiment in the final. Follow instructions. Sometimes a time limit is imposed per section. Two years back students were given one hour to do the English section and one hour for quantitative section. Stick to the time limit strictly. The following tips may be followed:

English Usage: Look for vocabulary related questions, such as analogies and spotting the odd man out. These are time-savers. Fill in the blanks may be easy and

could be attempted first too. Logic questions sometimes take time, especially where one has to arrange sentences to form a paragraph.

Comprehension: Glance through all the passages quickly and locate those whose subject seems familiar to you. Some passages may have facts and data, which could be easy to attempt. Long passages are not necessarily difficult, so do not make the mistake of looking for shorter passages only. In fact, the long passages usually have more questions and if you are able to figure it out, you can attempt more questions than a short passage.

Maths: In this section too, glance through the entire section. You will be able to find the questions that can be attempted easily. If you find a particular topic tough, simply avoid the questions. This is because you have plenty of choice. You can attempt on average 30-35 questions in the given time but the number of questions are around 45. So leave out the 10 questions in which your preparation is not good.

Data Interpretation: This section has one or two very difficult graphs but the rest of the paper is easy. Use approximations to arrive at the answer. The data sufficiency questions should be attempted first, as these are time-savers.

Test Taking Strategies

Every person will have a different strategy for attempting the paper. When you do a full-length test, remember to analyse and discuss mistakes either of calculation or in choice of questions. Make a note of them in a diary and before sitting for the next test, review the points. This will help you avoid similar mistakes in future.

Time management is of utmost importance. Learn to work strictly by the clock. If you are working at home, ask someone to remind you to switch sections after exactly 30 minutes. Gradually, as you appear in many tests, the fear will tend to decrease and you will know exactly which section is causing problems. Usually, if you have a good vocabulary, the English sections will see better scores while if you have an analytical mind, the quantitative sections will fetch you better marks.

However, there is a qualifying minimum score in each section and it is not advisable to leave out one section at the expense of the other.

Practice two helpful techniques: a) working backwards from the choices, and b) learning approximation techniques. The first is really the key to solve management entrance tests. Many sums would take very long if attempted by the proper method. But if one were to substitute the choices, one could quickly arrive at the correct answer. In others, if one works out an equation, it may not be necessary to solve it but try to see which choice best satisfies the condition.

Writing essays

An important addition to this year's CAT could be writing a paragraph or a short essay. Your preparation should thus not limit to the objective-type test only. Think through different topics consisting of current controversies. Regular reading of THE COMPETITION MASTER helps, as many essays and articles are covered from the examination point of view. Practice some creative topics too. For further topics of essays, go through a GMAT book. Your

essay should stand out among thousands, so it should reflect your extra reading and understanding. Show the essays to your teachers or friends so as to improve upon them.

One way of improving your writing skill is by reading a lot. If you read some good authors and books, you will learn how to use language effectively. The other aspect is to gain knowledge about the topic, which is obtained by reading current newspapers and magazines. Learn to read difficult as well as easy texts.

One question that is commonly asked is whether one should join coaching centres. Joining classes helps in making a routine and imposes discipline, but do not expect miracles. Ultimately, it is your effort that is going to count. However, since MBA is the latest craze, many unscrupulous coaching institutes promise the moon. Fantastic claims are made, such as "four out of five entrants to IIM are from X institute." It may be mentioned that such claims are difficult to verify or sustain. There are no short-cuts for success and anyone promising a quick remedy is not being honest. If CAT be your aim, prepare to practice endlessly and change yourself and do not expect any miracles.

ATTEMPTING MANAGEMENT TESTS

1. Attempt all sections within the given time. Work by an alarm clock or ask someone to remind you to switch sections.
2. Develop skill in all sections. Do not concentrate in one section at the expense of the other. A certain minimum marks have to be obtained in all sections.
3. Attempt different forms of testing so that you are not taken unawares by any surprise element in the paper.
4. Remember that speed is not hurry. Speed means spotting shorter methods as opposed to the 'correct' way of solving problems. Rushing through the paper is unlikely to do you any good.
5. Keep your cool. If you panic, close your eyes and meditate for half a minute. Return to the paper after blanking your mind of negative thoughts.
6. Compare your scores with others and you will have a good idea where you are heading.
7. Make a note of the mistakes you are likely to make. Keep the points in front of you while attempting mock tests so that you learn to avoid them.
8. Keep a small diary in which you write all the formulae, tables and the things you forget often. Carry it around and check it whenever you are in doubt. Constant reference will help you memorise what you find difficult.
9. Identify weak areas and seek professional help to get over them.
10. If you are consistently lagging behind, perhaps you need to consider whether you have aptitude. Maybe your talent lies in some other field and you should look at alternate careers.

ADMISSION ALERT

The Competition Master's Guide to Opportunities

This feature alerts our readers about forthcoming examinations and opportunities. Institutes should send us information well in advance to be included here. Readers are advised to assess their own suitability and that of the institute before applying—this feature is not a recommendation of any course or institute.

Aviation

Air Hostess, Flight Steward, Ticketing and Reservation—Courses commencing August and October, 1999. Contact: Sahara India Aviation Academy, 249/250 Block A, Road No 8, Mahipalpur, New Delhi - 110 017.

Aircraft Engineering

Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Course (3 years)—Eligibility: Class 12 with PCM and 50% marks. Age between 17-24 years. Last date: September 10, 1999. Apply to: Indian Institute of Aeronautics, Patna Airport, Patna, with a DD for Rs 310.

Chartered Accountancy

Intermediate and Final Examinations—To be held from November 1, 1999. For application form, apply to: Additional Secretary (Examinations) Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Indraprastha Marg, New Delhi - 110 002 with a DD for Rs 20 and a s.a.s.e. of size 27.5x12.5 cm

Computers

IBM Advanced Certificate in Software Engineering (ACSE)—National Entrance Test to be held on September 5, 1999. Eligibility: BE/B.Tech/MCA/M.Sc. Last date: August 24, 1999. Course duration: 6 weeks, fees: Rs 50,000. Apply to: IBM Global Services, Express Building, Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110 002 with a DD for Rs 500 and a photocopy of the graduation marksheet.

Correspondence Courses

1. **Master of Finance and Control, B.Ed, MA in various subjects, BA, B.Com, Diploma in Statistics and PG Diploma in Health and Population Education**—Last date: September 10, 1999. Apply to: The Registrar, Panjab University, Sector 14, Chandigarh with a DD for Rs 175.

2. **Undergraduate, PG, M.Phil courses**—Apply to: Registrar, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra - 136 119 with a DD for Rs 100 and 2 self-addressed slips.

Engineering

Joint Entrance Examination (JEE-2000)—for admission to IITs, IIT-BHU, Varanasi and ISM, Dhanbad. Screening test on January 2, 2000. Main examination on May 7, 2000. Application forms available from Chairman, JEE of any IIT and some designated banks from August 2, 1999 to September 13, 1999. For

details see advt published on July 24, 1999.

Foreign Languages

Portuguese Beginners Course—Apply to: Institute Camoes, Portuguese Cultural Centre, 13 Sunder Nagar, New Delhi - 110 003.

Hotel Management

Diploma in Hotel Management and Catering Technology (3 years), Craft courses (1 year)—Last date: August 30, 1999. Apply to: Indian Institute of Catering Technology and Hotel Management, 22 Shivaji Nagar, Near Membalam, Thanjavur - 613 001 with a DD for Rs 160.

Junior Research Fellowship

UGC Test for JRF and Eligibility for lecturership (NET). Test to be held on December 19, 1999. For details, see advt published on July 31, 1999.

Management

PG Diploma in Business Technology (16 months)—Apply to: Centre for International Management, A 231 Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi - 110 020 with a DD for Rs 200.

Marine Engineering

Diploma in Marine Engineering—Eligibility: Class 12 with PCM and English. Apply to: Director, Chennai School of Ship Management, 37/39 Perambur High Road, Chennai - 600 012.

Scholarships

1. **Inlaks Scholarship**—Eligibility: Age between 22-30 years. Selection is based on personal interview. Last date: August 30, 1999. Apply to: Inlaks Foundation, PO Box 2108, Delhi - 110 007.

2. **Doctoral Fellowships in Economics, Sociology, Development, Population Studies and Education**—Eligibility: Masters degree with 55% marks, age below 28 years. Test: NET/JRF. Admissions through entrance test and interview. Last date: September 24, 1999. Apply to: Registrar, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore - 560 072 with a DD for Rs 50.

3. **Fellowships and Grants for research/training in a medical or related subject**—For application forms write to: Director, RD Birla Smarak Kosh, Medical Research Centre, Bombay Hospital Trust, Hospital Avenue, Mumbai - 400 020 with a s.a.s.e. 24x10 cm with Rs 6 stamps.

Travel and Tourism

Basic course in fares and ticketing (1 to 3 months)—Eligibility: class 12 or graduation. Apply to: Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Ministry of Tourism and Delhi Tourism, 9 Nyaya Marg, Chanakypuri, New Delhi - 110 021.

Merchant Navy

The opportunity to travel around the world and the lure of high salaries attracts many youngsters to a career in the Merchant Navy. This feature describes the profession, how to get into it and the promotion avenues. Usually, young people are attracted by the glamour of travelling the high seas, but it is good to know what actually the job entails. It also describes what to expect and the avenues after spending some years on the ship

A career in the merchant navy is considered a glamorous one, especially by young people who have the travel bug. It offers an opportunity to visit new and exotic places all over the world, and the salaries are also very high. For many young people, a life of travel and adventure holds a unique charm and that is the reason that many of them look for a career in the merchant navy.

What is merchant navy? It consists of various types of ships such as tankers, cargo and passenger ships. It is different from the navy in the sense that it offers commercial services, as opposed to the navy, which is involved in the defence of a nation. Companies that run merchant ships require trained people who can operate and maintain the ships. Some of these are: Chevron and Mobil of USA, Wallem Ship Management of Hong Kong, Denholm of UK and a host of Norwegian companies. India too has its shipping companies, such as the Shipping Corporation of India, Great Eastern Shipping, Essar and Chowgule Shipping. Merchant Navy is the backbone of international trade, carrying cargo across the globe. Without the merchant navy, much of the import-export business would grind to a halt!

Trained people are required for the three main departments of the ship—the deck, the engine and the service department. There are thus, many career options that are available for any youngster that has dreams to join the merchant navy. The deck officers include the captain, chief officer, second officer, third officer and other junior officers. Deck staff is responsible for

navigating, supervising cargo and passengers. The engine department consists of the chief engineer, radio officer, electrical officer and junior engineers. They are responsible for the engines and other mechanical and electrical equipment. The service department manages the kitchen, laundry, medical and other services. Thus, another way of getting into the merchant navy could be by doing a course in hotel management and catering.

Salary. The starting salary varies between Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000 a month. A person gets a variety of benefits such as free food, accommodation, paid leave, two-way free passage and facilities for families. In other words, the salary can be saved totally while one is on ship. The perquisites include bonus, holiday travel and other annual benefits. Foreign companies pay higher, and a starting salary of \$1,500 to \$2,500 can be expected. Since the job involves going abroad for extended periods, one can take advantage of becoming an NRI and earn tax-free income.

The entry level for a fresh marine engineer (ME) is at the rank of fifth engineer or junior engineer. Promotions depend on examinations and a steady performance. The fourth engineer must have completed 18 months of seetime and clear the examination (conducted by Marine Mercantile Department, Government of India) to be promoted to the rank of third engineer. At each stage, exams have to be cleared and after many years of experience, one may hope to become the chief engineer, the highest rank that an ME can reach. At this level, salary may reach Rs 1.50 lakh per month. Some people achieve this by mid-30s. The chances of promotions are quite wide, though it may be mentioned that there are no higher positions after becoming the captain of a ship. There could, thus, be some stagnation at this level.

How to apply: A merchant navy aspirant can do the 3-year B.Sc (Nautical Science) course or the 4-year Marine Engineering course at the TS Chanakya, Mumbai and Marine Engineering Research

Institute (MERI), Calcutta. The first is a navigation discipline course while the second is an engineering course. The eligibility is class 12 with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. Admission is through the IIT Joint Entrance Examination (JEE-2000), the screening test of which is scheduled to be held on January 2, 2000 and main examination on May 7, 2000. Application forms can be obtained from Chairman, JEE of any IIT and some designated banks from August 2, 1999 to September 13, 1999. Candidates will also have to fill forms for TS Chanakya and MERI, which are available from: Director General of Shipping, Jahaz Bhawan, WH Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai - 400 038.

Candidates have to be unmarried Indian citizens (male or female). After clearing the test, there is an interview and a medical test. Normal vision is required but glasses upto plus or minus 2.5 may be allowed. There are some private institutes which offer training for merchant navy as well. These institutes prepare students for jobs such as deck cadets and marine engineering jobs. Look out for notices in the local newspapers for the courses conducted by private institutes.

Becoming a deck cadet: If you have missed the opportunity to do IIT-JEE, the alternative is to do a training to become a deck cadet from a private institute. Some of these institutes have contacts with shipping companies, which normally recruit deck cadets directly. The limitation is that one may not have as fast a promotion that may be offered to a regular marine engineer or a graduate in nautical science.

Aptitude: It is normally believed that the job of a merchant navy officer is a glamorous one. While travel and high salaries are no doubt attractive, an aspirant must assess whether he has the aptitude or not. First, it is a high technology profession. One must not only have engineering aptitude but a feel for technology as well. Second, a person may be on a ship for extended periods of time, without family. This could become lonely and may cause stress. Further, if one

gets sea-sick, a career in the merchant navy is hardly the correct option. It may also be kept in mind that if you have an aversion to exams, you may find promotions difficult to come by. Finally, one would have to be a calm person and not prone to panic: a person managing a ship would have to keep calm in the case of rough seas and storms, or if the engine fails. Working hours could be irregular; one could be sailing for nine months in a year, with a minimum duty of eight hours a day. Working areas could also be cramped, with little social life. It is only on the bigger passenger ships that one can meet other people, but for many cargo ships, it means spending months only with the crew members. So, one must be prepared for the rugged life.

Training. The four-year training is a rigorous one and prepares a young person for crisis management besides imparting skills required for the ship. In the first year, one learns basics of engineering, electrical and

electronics. The next year, cadets learn about the engine room, the machines and instruments used for sailing. Candidates will also have to attend workshops at the Mazagaon docks, the Indian Naval Dockyard and the Bombay Port Trust. This is essential because of the rule that all MEs must have two years of workshop training in government-authorized centres. The other organisations where training can be done are the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Central Inland Waterways Transport Corporation. The third and fourth year are devoted to studying engineering. Students learn about the internal combustion engine, the diesel power-house and other technical aspects.

In the final year, students learn management including operations management, naval architecture, marine auxiliaries and electricity, geography, ship construction and marine systems design. MFRI is equipped with instrumentation, automation and simulators. Students are trained

to meet challenges on the sea. Discipline, dedication and the ability to work under pressure are all required from a good sailor. These days, working in a computerised environment are an added training that one must go through and some jobs may have become easier because of this. However, one must be constantly alert to warning systems to avoid any mishap.

Prospects beyond marine engineering. Training in marine engineering does not limit you to ships. After putting in several years of service, many sailors retire with a good savings and opt for land-based jobs or start a business. The normal age of retirement would be mid-30s or early forties, when a person feels the need to settle down with family. Openings would exist in the power plants, electrical and electronics industry, ship-building industry, etc. Many marine engineers become consultants to international shipping lines or join companies providing maintenance and other services to ships.

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SEPTEMBER

India

The array of significant events in Indian history, which took place during the months of September include: announcement of Bengal partition by the British government on **September 1, 1905**; foundation of Home Rule League at Madras by Annie Besant on **September 21, 1916**; Bhagat Singh abandoning hunger strike on prison reforms on **September 14, 1929** following the death of Jatindra Nath Doss; signing of Poona Pact on **September 24, 1932**; Vinoba Bhave announcing retirement from politics on **September 6, 1935**; formation of Interim government by Jawahar Lal Nehru on **September 2, 1946** following Lord Wavell's approving appointment of Interim government proposed by the Congress Party; Mahatma Gandhi commencing his (14th) fast on 'recrudescence of trouble in Calcutta' on **September 1, 1948**; Major General Choudhry taking over as the Military Governor of Hyderabad on **September 18, 1948**; Hindi becoming the National Language on **September 14, 1949**; Mihir Sen becoming first Indian to cross the English Channel on **September 27, 1958**; inauguration of first STD route in India between Delhi and Jaipur on **September 8, 1964**; in the Indo-Pak war, Indian troops crossing into West Pakistan in Lahore sector from three directions on **September 6, 1965**; opening of first Commonwealth Youth Festival in Delhi on **September 2, 1969**; inauguration of Salem Steel Plant by Indira Gandhi on **September 16, 1970**; Prakash Padukone defeating Morten Frost Hansen to win World's first Open Badminton Tournament at Royal Albert Hall on **September 22, 1979**; inauguration of Silent Valley National Park by Rajiv Gandhi on **September 6, 1983**; in Rajiv Gandhi's reshuffled

Cabinet, K.R. Narayanan becoming the Minister of State for External Affairs on **September 25, 1985**; Rajiv Gandhi declaring open the Reliance Cup tournament on **September 30, 1987**; Vijaypat Singhania creating record with his marathon microlight solo flight from London to Delhi on **September 9, 1988**; enforcement of Prasar Bharati Act, granting autonomy to AIR and DD, on **September 15, 1997**; Delhi restricting to the sale of unleaded petrol on **September 1, 1998**.

Dedicatory

Dadabhai Naoroji, the Grand Old Man of India, who along with W.C. Bonnerjee founded the London-India Society was born on **September 4, 1825**.

Leo Tolstoy, world's greatest novelist of the fame of 'War and Peace', was born on **September 9, 1828**.

Bhartendu Harishchandra, literary genius who is considered as the father of the Modern Hindi literature, was born on **September 9, 1850**.

Robert Gascoyne Cecil, the prime draftsman of League of Nations Covenant, was born on **September 14, 1864**.

(Dr) S. Radhakrishnan, the first Vice President and the President of India (1962-1967), was born in Triutani on **September 5, 1888**.

International

On the international scenario the array of events which emerged into prominence during the months of September include: signing of Treaty of Portsmouth that brought an end to Russo-Japanese war on **September 5, 1905**; British Post Office starting the

first Air Mail Service in the world on **September 9, 1911**; Alexander Kerensky proclaiming Russia a Republic on **September 15, 1917**; Swastika becoming official flag of the Germany on **September 15, 1935**; German invasion of Poland on **September 1, 1939**; Britain and France declaring war on Germany on **September 3, 1939**; Japanese Foreign Minister signing terms of surrender on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay on **September 2, 1945**; signing of South East Asia Defence Treaty on **September 8, 1954**; beginning of Commercial Television in Britain on **September 22, 1955**; Sweden changing its rule of the road from left to right on **September 3, 1967**; Egypt re-adopting its name from the United Arab of Egypt on **September 2, 1971**; in Uganda, expulsion of 8000 Asians by General Amin on **September 8, 1972**; opening of first World Swim meet in Belgrade on **September 1, 1973**; President Ford granting a full pardon to the former U.S. President Richard Nixon on **September 8, 1974**; opening of Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport, Georgia, USA—the World's largest Airport terminal—on **September 20, 1980**; Sri Lanka winning the first test series by drawing the third and final test against India on **September 19, 1985**; signing of Peace Pact in South Africa by Black and White leaders on **September 14, 1991** to end the factional fighting; Soviet Parliament disbanding the entire USSR on **September 5, 1991**; Col Gaddafi celebrating his 25th year in Power in Libya on **September 1, 1994**; Martina Hingis winning US Open title on **September 7, 1997** to become youngest woman to win at least three major singles titles in a single season; US conducting non-explosive nuclear tests in the desert of Nevada on **September 27, 1998**.

Descriptive Questions

Workers, management and productivity

Q. Suggest three effective measures to link wages (workers) with productivity and ensure better relations between workers and management. Say how the measures suggested by you would produce the desired results.

Ans. The slogan 'produce or perish' is much more relevant and rewarding in the present world than what it was in the years gone-by. The mind-set of both workers and management will have to undergo a drastic change and the old phantoms of distrust and defiance of each other's bona fides will have to be buried. While burying the hatchet for ever, a new relationship between wages and productivity, on the one hand, and between the workers and management, on the other, needs to be worked out.

There is no place for props and polemics as far as industrial output in the private and public sectors is concerned. In the changed industrial scenario, trade unions should play a special role in making the 'linkage' principle (between wages and productivity) a success in order to develop a strong and institutionalised industrial relations machinery.

Awareness and consciousness among the workers that the enterprise is their own, and its prosperity depends on their hard work and loyalty, would go a long way in improving work culture and productivity. Unless a new spirit and sensibility about the decisive role that workers have to play in enhancing the productivity level of their unit or enterprise is developed, the anticipated dividends would fail to materialise.

Since it takes two hands to clap, the management too would have to create congenial conditions at the work places and avoid all chances of conflict. Periodic con-

sultations between the management and unions will result in peaceful industrial climate ensuring uninterrupted production, improvement of productivity and reduction in unit cost resulting in competitive prices of products. Transparency, openness and building of credibility can help in gaining cooperation of workers in times of difficulty. It is needless to reiterate that in a free market economy, the management must accord top priority to the development of human resources.

Banning Lotteries

Q. 'Banning lotteries may be good in theory but bad in practice.' Substantiate the statement with your views based on knowledge, reading and experience.

Ans. To hit the jackpot is a universal wish. The acquisition of quick and easy money is the most tempting desire that almost all of us nurse in some corner of our heart. Consciously or unconsciously, our prayers are directed towards fast personal prosperity, and the fulfilment of such a wish is possible only when the lucky ones are blessed with a wind-fall like winning a fabulous lottery or horse race or something like that. In recent years, the craze for lottery tickets has resulted in breaking many a home and shattering many a dream. If some social workers or organisations have taken cognizance of the poor or fixed income group persons going bankrupt or pampers over the pompous promise of a big lottery prize not coming their way, the suggestion to ban all types of lotteries may be given a serious thought. Though the proposal is beset with many practical problems, in the larger interest of ethical values that sustain all civilised societies, banning of lotteries may be the only option left with us if we really mean to save those young

and old, who have gone mad over the prospects of becoming millionaires overnight.

The hope that buying a lottery ticket may mean an end of life's ordeal and poverty-related problems, has entrapped millions and proved their worst enemy. An addiction as harmful as drinking, gambling or even drug taking, the temporary charm of a lottery ticket has ruined many a family and brought them on the roads. The statement that banning the sale of lotteries may be good in intention but bad in implementation may be true, as all legislative measures to prevent social evils have a tendency to fail if people are not involved in the eradication of such aberrations. Mere passing a bill in Parliament or State legislature may not achieve the desired result.

The success of a legislation cannot be guaranteed simply because the sale of lotteries makes a big hole in poor man's daily earnings. If lotteries impoverish the poor further in their vain hope to become rich with a single stroke, they provide employment to millions, whose bread and butter depends upon the continuation of this trade, regardless of the fact whether it is moral or immoral, a virtue or a vice.

Besides throwing people out of jobs and making them irrelevant, after the sale of lotteries is banned, the measure would also mean a substantial loss of revenue to the already cash-starved States. In some of the most advanced countries like the US and the UK, lotteries have worked wonders by benefiting the public and enhancing the quality of life. Those who argue that by encouraging lotteries and other forms of gambling the government would be institutionalising greed may not be aware that more social good can accrue from lotteries than bad. "By banning the sale of lotteries, we would be depriving

people of the right to dream of a better life", some right thinking persons rightly feel so."

Social Security

Q. Some thinking persons strongly feel that job security/social security is the urgent need of the hour. Substantiate the statement with your views based on knowledge, experience and ground realities.

Ans. To provide social security or job opportunities to various segments of Indian society is a challenge to planners and policy-makers, on the one hand, and a fundamental human right for those who are either in the evening of life or standing on the threshold of their career or job market, on the other. The question whether guaranteeing social security to all is good or bad for the economy is a subject of debate today as it was many years ago. The process of globalisation, as we are all aware, has led to convergence of many of the social security problems. Some of the solutions being thought of are creation of a new social fund, privatisation of pension, and the like. For a country like India, no government worth its salt can wash its hands off the colossal problems of unemployment, neglect of the aged and the destitutes, utter lack of human development and a host of other demands that keep cropping up every now and then. The growing ghost of joblessness on one side of the national spectrum, and the widening economic and social disparities, on the other, call for immediate steps.

The pressures of modernisation have undoubtedly led to the weakening of the social support systems. Since no society can afford to live in vacuum the crying need of the moment is to provide some sort of a cushion against the odds that people in general face in their day-to-day lives. We need to deliberate upon the integration of social groups who are being marginalised in this process of development under the garb of globalisation-cum-liberalisation.

The hard fact is that one-third of our population continues to live below the poverty line and a large number still remains

unemployed and under-employed. In a civilised society like ours, social policy cannot be allowed to remain unconcerned about the workers and others who are likely to be displaced in the process of economic restructuring. It should be an important concern of the policy makers that those who are displaced are helped into better adjustment paths and are meaningfully redeployed. In the broader context, social security is needed by all vulnerable groups.

Effects of forest damage

Q. "World Bank economists have voiced the fear that forest damage could trigger off the second economic crisis in Asia." Express your views on the statement based on reading, knowledge and experience.

Ans. As water is to a fish, so are forests to human life. The observation of World Bank economists that any further depletion of forests may result in a more serious and severe economic crisis in Asia than the first one that had hit only a few countries a couple of years ago is worth taking note of. The way damage to forests has taken place over the years is a matter that should cause many a sleepless night to all and sundry because the calamities that follow denudation of landscape spare none, however well-endowed he or she may be. Hence, the warning should be taken as the writing on the wall and timely steps should be taken to avert another crisis that may catch the people napping in Asia any

time in future.

In 1997 an estimated eleven million acres of forest lands were lost in South-East Asia due to slash-and-burning farming activities of a timber mafia, and both deliberate and natural fires. Referring to it as "the dark side of the Asian miracle" and "the silent crisis that is going on unnoticed as people get thrown back to subsistence economy", economists are now asking Asian nations to concentrate on sustainable natural resource use, because once the forests are wiped out "it will also undermine the capacity of these economies to reach truly sustainable development."

According to environmentalists, in India over 80,000 hectares of forests have been destroyed by forest fires this year, and this is in addition to an estimated 20,000 hectares that are annually felled to make way for non-forestry projects such as mining, hydro-electric projects, transmission lines and roads.

Quite obviously, a holistic approach is called for that will involve peoples and communities in Asia if our forests are to be saved and a possible economic crisis as envisaged by the WB is to be avoided. For starters, there is need for a fuel and fodder policy because people will only sleat forest resources to meet their daily requirements if there are no other viable alternatives. A concerted effort must be made to check forest fires and communication network should be put in place to help check the hitherto unchecked timber mafia.

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General Studies Scene

Solved Questions from Previous Years' General Studies Question Papers

Q. 1. What is the basic structure of the Constitution of India? Briefly review the important amendments to the Constitution since its adoption by the Constituent Assembly. Specify any particular amendment which was later repealed and the reasons thereof. (About 500 words).

(Civil Services Exam (Main) 1979)

Ans. 1. Indian Constitution provides for a specific procedure for amendments. But any amendment made to the Constitution after following the procedure laid down under Article 368, must conform to the requirements of Article 13(2) as a Law. In other words, any Constitutional amendment which is inconsistent with any Fundamental Right enumerated in Part-III of the Constitution is void. Further, the issue whether the Parliament enjoyed absolute powers to amend the Constitution has been considered from time to time by the Supreme Court of India. Principles have been laid within which the Constitution is amendable. In a landmark judgement in a case titled as *Keshavananda Vs the State of Kerala*, the Full Bench of the apex court has held that there were certain basic features, which form part of the basic structure of the Constitution, which cannot be altered by the Parliament in exercise of powers under Article 368.

Broadly, these basic features are sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, the federal system, judicial review, parliamentary system of government, secularism, rule of law, supremacy of the Constitution, separation of powers, free and fair election, etc.

Important Amendments: Since commencement, Indian Constitution had been amended 78 times till January 1997. Some of the major amendments to the Constitution are enumerated as under:

(a) **24th Amendment:** With a view to wipe out the effect of the Judgement of the Supreme Court in the *Golak Nath* case, this amendment was made in 1971 to clarify that the Parliament had power to amend every part of the Constitution and the President was made bound to accord assent to a Constitutional Amendment Bill.

(b) **42nd Amendment:** Made in the year 1976, 42nd amendment was virtually a total revision of the Constitution and many material changes were incorporated. Most of these changes were repealed by 43rd and 44th Amendments.

(c) **73rd and 74th Amendments:** These amendments deserve special mention as these provided Constitutional status to Panchayats and Municipalities and introduced the electoral system for them.

Repealed Amendments:

One of the most controversial amendments to the Constitution was 42nd amendment made during the period of internal emergency. Vide this amendment, the Constitutional amendments were made immune from judicial review. In addition, the main emphasis was to enhance the executive authority, without much interference from the judiciary. These provisions to curb the judicial review were repealed by 43rd Amendment. 44th Amendment, not only repealed some more new provisions added to the Constitution by 42nd Amendment, but also brought back the changed provisions to bring them back to pre-1976 position.

This feature has been specially prepared to help the aspiring candidates of Civil Services (Mains) examination have an idea of type of questions that are asked in the General Studies paper and the way these questions are to be answered. October '99 issue will also incorporate questions from previous papers. November '99 issue will carry expected questions. Readers are invited to send us any specific topic or question that they would like us to include in this feature.

Q. 2. Briefly review our achievements in industrial development over the Plan Periods. What roles have been assigned to the Public Sector and the Small Scale Industries in our industrial development plans and programmes? (About 500 words)

(Civil Services Exam (Main) 1979)

Ans. 2. For the economic development of any country, industrial development plays a major role, that is why most of the models of economic development rely heavily on rapid industrialisation. To that extent, India has been no exception. After independence, Five Year Plans were adopted as the national programmes for achieving rapid economic development. Influenced by the Soviet model of economic development, industrialisation was accorded high priority by the government. Since in many less lucrative fields, private capital investment was not coming forth, government created several Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) to encourage heavy, key and strategic industries.

At the beginning of the planned development, the industrial base in India was very poor. Except for a few industrial houses here and there, most of the population was dependent on agriculture where productivity and resultant incomes were very low and, as a result, upto fifth Five Year Plan, the overall average annual growth rate of Indian economy was around 3.5

per cent, so much so that it came to be known as "Hindu Growth Rate". Main reason for this low growth rate of the GDP was heavy dependence on primary sector. But gradually, the government continued to encourage industries in the private sector, public sector, small scale and tiny sector which resulted in gradual building up of a strong industrial base on the one hand, and discernible change in occupational structure as well as contribution to the GDP, on the other hand. As a result, both industrial as well as the service sectors have left the primary sector behind, so far as contribution to the GDP is concerned.

Subsequent industrial policies have continued to encourage the industrial sector from time to time, as per needs of times. Initially, heavy reliance was placed on the PSEs, which gradually was withdrawn, putting more and more faith in the private investment. The Industrial Policy of 1991 is considered to be a watershed when the policy of economic and structural reforms, coupled with the policy of liberalisation was introduced, paving the way for rapid industrialisation, particularly resulting from the flight of foreign capital to India. The years 1994 to 1997 witnessed a very high growth rate of the industrial sector, which has come down recently due to the global recession. But after 1992-93, the average annual growth rate of the GDP has remained above 5 per cent, which is creditable, and strong industrial base is one major factor responsible for this achievement.

Role of PSEs: Public Sector Enterprises have played a very important role in industrial development of India. The Central, as well as State PSEs, have contributed immensely to the heavy and strategic industrialisation of the country. In addition, these enterprises have also contributed to balanced regional growth, employment generation, building up of infrastructure and achieving a host of other social objectives. A total of Rs 1,15,000 crore have been invested in 246 Central PSEs, which have resulted in accruing of several economic gains to the country. Though the government has decided to divest part of its equity out of several PSEs, yet it does not undermine their role and contribution to the Indian economy.

Role of SSI Sector: Small-scale industries have also had their contribution in the economic development of the country. Notwithstanding the prime importance of the heavy and large industries to the rapid economic development, small-scale industries have their important share in overall industrial development of the country. High potential of employment generation and immense contribution to the export promotion effort of the country are two corner-stones of the achievements of the small-scale industries. SSI sector has played an important role in industrialisation of smaller towns and even villages generating greater economic activities in these areas.

Q. 3. Mahatma Gandhi wrote in 1928 to Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru "The differences between you and me appear to be so vast and radical that there seems to be no meeting ground between us". State briefly the difference in approach of Gandhiji and Pt. Nehru to the following two issues and indicate the impact of their views on our Constitution and govern-

ment policy:

- (a) Socialism as a goal of national policy;
- (b) Place of industries in Indian economy. (Not more than 150 words each)

(Civil Services Exam (Main) 1980)

Ans. 3. Despite the fact that Gandhiji and Pt. Nehru both contributed to the achievement of freedom from the British, there were certain basic differences in their political and economic ideology, as well as their views on socio-economic upliftment of the masses and general economic development. Both the leaders have left their impact on the Indian Constitution as well as the government policy adopted. Coming from different regions as well as different family backgrounds, both the leaders had developed distinguished ideas about the economic and social development of the country which manifested in constitutional provisions as well as the government policy with details as under:

(a) **Socialism as a goal of policy:** Pt. Nehru was greatly influenced by the socialistic model of economic development adopted by the erstwhile USSR. Socialistic pattern of society, thus has been part of economic policy of the government right from the beginning. The socialistic attitude of Nehru had its direct bearing on the economic policy, as it resulted in high rates of taxation on the rich and heavy spending for the well being of the poorer sections. Although, formally, the word "socialist" was added in the Preamble of the Constitution later by Smt Indira Gandhi in 1976, socialistic approach of the government has become evident immediately after the independence. Mahatma Gandhi was also not opposed to the idea of socialism, but his idea of socialism revolved around social upliftment of the down-trodden and scheduled castes. More than economic concept of socialism, Gandhiji was a great believer of social aspects of the concept of socialism. The ideas of Gandhiji are reflected in the Directive Principles of the State policy in the Constitution and in various legislations for reservation in services as well as social protection to socially backward communities. The framers of the Constitution as well as the government policy-makers have tried to maintain delicate balance by adopting important socialistic ideas of both the great leaders.

(b) **Place of Industries in Indian Economy:** Both the leaders had varying views on the issue of industrialisation as well as place of industries in the economy. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru was convinced in his mind that heavy industrialisation was the key to rapid economic development. Taking a cue from the experience and economic achievements of the erstwhile USSR, Pt. Nehru adopted the Mahalanobis Model from the Second Five Year Plan onwards and created massive public sector enterprises to achieve the above goal. Gandhian views on industrialisation were however different. He believed that prime occupation in India being agriculture, the primary sector was the first priority. He also believed that Indian economy was not yet ripe for heavy industrialisation and emphasis were to be laid on the small-scale, cottage and village industries so that each village become a self-sufficient economic unit. As per Gandhiji, such an approach towards industrialisation would also provide fruitful and off-season employment to the peasants and strengthen the Indian economy

from the core. Though Gandhiji's views could not be reflected immediately in the government policy, yet in the Directive Principles, development of village and cottage industries has been adopted as one of the directives to the State, on which the government has been acting from time to time in the form of policies and programmes for development of such industries

Q. 4. What is the scheme of division of powers between the Centre and the States under the Constitution of India? Discuss whether the grant of greater autonomy to the States would be in the interest of strengthening the integrity and promoting the economic development of the country. (About 500 words)

(Civil Services Exam (Main) 1979)

Ans. 4. Every federal system requires well defined distribution of powers between the federation and the provincial units. The nature of distribution varies from country to country, depending upon local and political needs. The distribution of powers generally proceeds on two lines i.e., the territory over which the federation and provincial units will have their jurisdiction and the subjects to which their respective jurisdiction would extend.

In the legislative powers, the States in India have power to legislate only within their own territorial jurisdiction or part thereof. Under no circumstances such jurisdiction can extend to other States. But the Union government, on the other hand, can legislate for the whole or any part of territory in India. As regards some of the Union Territories like Andaman and Lakshadweep, regulations made by the President have the same force as the Acts of Parliament.

So far as subject of legislation are concerned, in the USA and Australia, the Constitution enumerates only the powers of the federal government, while in Canada, there is double enumeration, defining the respective areas of legislation by the States as well as the Union. In India, the Constitution adopts a three-fold enumeration, which includes a Union list, a State list and a concurrent list. Only the Union government is empowered to legislate on the Union list and States are allowed to legislate on the State list, the concurrent list allows both the States as well as Union to legislate, but in case of overlapping of a matter, predominance has been given to the Union legislature. While the Union list has 99 subjects including defence, foreign affairs, banking, insurance, currency etc., the State list includes 61 items of entries like law and order, police, local governments, agriculture, forests, fisheries, health and sanitation etc. The concurrent list has 52 subjects including criminal law and procedures, civil law, education, marriage, contracts, torts, trusts, welfare of labour etc. The residuary powers are vested in the Union, following the pattern of Canada.

Under special circumstances like an emergency, the Union government has the power to legislate on the State subjects as well. But each piece of legislation would cease to have effect after the lapse of 6-month period after the emergency. Further, in the national interest, the Parliament may legislate on a State subject, provided that the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) declared

by a resolution of 2/3rd majority of the present members that it was expedient in the national interest to do so. Such law, however, automatically expires after a period of six months and the Rajya Sabha may renew it for a period of one year at a time. Further, if the legislature of two or more States resolve that it shall be lawful for the Parliament to make laws on any subjects including the State list of those States, the Parliament may exercise such power with respect to the concerned States. It is, in effect, extension of the jurisdiction of the Union Parliament by consent of the State legislatures.

Q. 5. What are the respective roles of the political leadership and the permanent Civil Services in the governance of India? What steps, if any, have to be taken to secure better appreciation of functions of the civil services and to secure their proper and efficient functioning? (About 500 words)

(Civil Services Exam (Main) 1980)

Ans. 5. One of the rare features of Indian Constitution is that civil services find a specific mention in the Constitution. As in case of any typical parliamentary democracy, Indian Constitution provides that the policy of administration is determined by the Ministers responsible to the legislature and the said policy is carried out by the administration of the country actually run by a large body of officials called the permanent civil service. The civil service is referred to as Permanent Executives, while the ministers are called the Political Executive. While the political executive is chosen from the party in majority in legislature and remain at helm of affairs till the said party remains in power, the permanent Executive is appointed by a different procedure and does not belong to the party in power. The Civil Services, as the permanent Executive is better known, maintains continuity of administration and neutrality in politics. This body of officials is expert in day to day working of the government.

Both political leadership and the Civil Services have their respective roles to play. The political leadership, in addition to being part of political Executive, also performs the role of legislature. In other words, the political leadership plays the role of legislating on the issues of general interest and for this they are responsible to the electorate. In addition, the ministers among the political leadership also play the role of political Executive. Such Executive is not permanent and is superior to the permanent Executive. The political Executive has a different role, which is that of general policy formation. While this job is entrusted to the political leadership, the responsibility of executing the policy formed by the political executive lies with the civil services. Political Executive being temporary, the civil services provides permanence and continuity to the Executive Authority.

Of late, the political leadership has started interfering in the day to day execution of administration, which primarily is the task of civil services. There are many instances when the politicians have tried to overstep their authority and encroached upon the domain of civil services. There are also a few glaring instances where the civil servants have tried to resist such encroachment by the political bosses. Not only the political Executive, but even the members of legislatures have also tried to

throw their weight upon the civil services in the matters of pure execution and administration.

Several steps are required to be taken to ensure that better appreciation of the functions of the civil services is done, so that it works properly and efficiently. Firstly, the political leadership has to be made fully aware of the role provided to them by the Constitution. Secondly, even the civil servants need to be trained to be polite but firm with their political bosses, so that they are not used as tools by the politicians to grind their axe. In addition, selection process for the civil services should be such as to ensure that the selected candidates are impartial, without personal and political bias. Further, any breaches of rules, regulations and discipline by the civil servants must be viewed seriously and the violators should face strict departmental and legal action. Hence, the conditions of service for the civil services should be well-defined, so that there is no arbitrary action by them or against them.

Q. 6. Answer the following:

- (a) What is a laser beam?
- (b) Define genetic code.
- (c) What are antibiotics? Name two antibiotics which are commonly used.
- (d) Unlike most other parts of the country, why is Tamil Nadu coast wettest in November-December and not in July-August?
- (e) Name major international rivers flowing through India. What countries/States are covered by Ganga and Godavari Rivers on their course from their source to the Sea?
- (f) What is Bombay High? What is Sagar Samrat's connection with Bombay High?
- (g) What do you understand by (i) a rights share issue and (ii) a bonus share issue?
- (h) What is floor crossing? Have governments legislated on the subject of floor-crossing?
- (i) What is meant by "planning from below" and "planning from above"?

(Civil Services Exam (Main) 1980)

Ans. 6. (a) Laser stands for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation. It is a very special source of light generating optical radiation. Light generated by laser is coherent while normal light is non-coherent. This makes it extremely intense and highly directional. Due to its intensity, laser beam can melt and evaporate any material onto which it is focussed. Hence it is used for cutting, drilling and welding applications. These are also widely used in other industrial applications as well as medicine, communication and defence etc. Their use in weaponry has made anti-aircraft, anti-tank and anti-marine weapons more lethal and extremely accurate.

(b) As it is well-known, genes are located in the Chromosomes, which are themselves situated in the nucleus of the cell. The mystery surrounding the genes was cleared with the discovery of the structure of the DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) which can have one of the 4 types of little molecules named as Adenine

(A), Cytosine (C), Thymine (T) and Guanine (G). Among them, there is a pre-determined arrangement for specific partners in the form of letters of a fixed code, making a 4-letter alphabet, which is called genetic code.

(c) The modern medical science believes that cause of most of infections and many other disease is the presence of harmful viruses and bacteria in the human body. To destroy these micro-organisms, certain specific medicines broadly classified as antibiotics are prescribed by the doctors. Two commonly used antibiotics are ampicillin and amoxycillin.

(d) Most part of India receives rainfall from the monsoons moving in north-east direction from the Kerala coast to northern parts of the country. Most parts of the country receive ample rainfall from these monsoons during the months of July-August. But Tamil Nadu is mostly bypassed by the direction of monsoons. However, this State receives ample rains during the months of November-December, when similar winds blowing northwards to north-west from the coast of Tamil Nadu, bring rains.

(e) There are several international rivers flowing through India. These include Indus, Ravi, Chenab, Satluj, Jhelum, Brahmaputra and Ganga. While Ganga river crosses through the States of U.P., Bihar and West Bengal before entering Bangladesh, Godavari river crosses through Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, before flowing into the Arabian sea.

(f) Bombay High is the name given to a series of crude oil wells off the coast near Mumbai in the Arabian Sea. Most of India's indigenous oil output is produced at Bombay High. Sagar Samrat is the name given to a offshore platform having one of the highest yield of crude oil in Bombay High.

(g) Rights share issue is the issue of shares brought out by any industrial/investment company exclusively for the existing owners of its shares at relatively lower rates than the market rates. Bonus share issue on the other hand, is brought out by the industrial/investment companies at lower than the market price/free for the existing owners of shares.

(h) Floor crossing is a term which denotes defection or changing of political parties by individuals or groups. In the year 1985, vide 52nd Constitutional amendment, a famous Bill popularly called Anti-defection Bill was passed to curb defections by disqualification. Vide this amendment, a member of Parliament or Legislative Assembly belonging to a political party would be disqualified for being member of that house if he voluntarily gives up the membership of that party or he votes or abstains against a party whip. Defection was allowed only if the party splits with at least 1/3rd of its total members. An independent member, if join a political party after his election is also to be disqualified.

(i) The term "planning from below" means that the needs of development planning are ascertained from the villages and blocks of a district/State before the plan for that particular State/district is formulated and finalised. "Planning from above", on the other hand means that the plans are prepared at the Central or State levels, without ascertaining the developmental needs

from the field, and are then imposed on the areas concerned.

Q. 7. What are the main factors that led eventually to the Partition of India in 1947? To what extent was Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru justified in writing in 1946 as follows: "It (communalism) is our fault of course and we must suffer for our failings. But I cannot excuse or forgive the British authorities for deliberate part they have played in creating disruption in India."

(Civil Services Exam (Main) 1982)

Ans. 7. Several factors were responsible for eventual partition of India in 1947. While the policies followed by the British government were responsible to a large extent, the internal problems like communalism and fundamentalism also contributed significantly to partition of the country. Some of the main factors responsible were as under:

(a) **Policy of Divide and Rule:** Right from the beginning the British government followed the policy of divide and rule by trying to create differences between Hindus and Muslims. Britishers had realised that Hindus and Muslims if united could pose serious threat to their rule and as a matter of policy, they always tried to put one community against the other. This eventually resulted in partition of the country.

(b) **Rise of Fundamentalism:** Rise of fundamentalism on part of both communities during the initial parts of the twentieth century resulted in rise of communal organisations and political parties which professed and advocated partition of the country.

(c) **Communal Riots:** Incidents of communal riots also resulted in both the communities taking strong positions against one another.

(d) **Press:** Rise of vernacular press in particular also resulted in arousing the community feelings. Urdu and Hindi press also had their contribution in partitioning the country.

A perusal of above factors would reveal that while the British government and their policies were largely responsible for partition of India, rise of communalism was one factor for which the Indians were themselves to be blamed. Small incidents were blown out of proportions and organisations like Muslim League and Hindu Mahasabha were responsible to arouse communal passions. Several Muslim leaders like Muhammad Ali Jinnah played a very active role in opposing every conciliatory move of the Indian National Congress, which prompted fundamentalist leaders among the Hindus also to follow suit. Hence Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru was justified in saying that while the Indians themselves were also responsible for partition, the British government can also not get absolved of the responsibility of dividing India in two parts in 1947.

Q. 8. What are main reasons for launching the Integrated Rural Development Programme? State its main objectives. How is it being financed?

(Civil Services (Main) 1982)

Ans. 8. Upto the fifth Five Year Plan, the scheme of rural development included several programmes which were aimed at generating employment opportunities in the rural areas, cre-

ation of assets like rural roads, community buildings, health subcentres, educational infrastructure, making available potable drinking water and similar allied activities. It was believed that all these activities would generate greater economic activity in the villages, resulting in higher incomes to all the sections of the society. In other words, India's rural development was based on the so-called "trickle-down" theory which believed that the fruits of development and increased economic activity would trickle down to the poorest parts of the population, enabling them to cross the poverty line.

But the experience of first 25 years of economic development left the policy-makers baffled. While huge sums of money were spent on rural development, the results, particularly in the field of poverty alleviation, were not commensurate with the funds pumped in. It was realised that the percentage of people living below poverty line, which was around 50 per cent at the beginning of the planned development, decreased marginally to 48 per cent after fifth Five Year Plan. The need, therefore, was to introduce a programme which could launch a frontal attack on the curse of poverty. Hence, a new scheme called Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) was launched. Under this scheme every Block Development Officer (BDO) is required to identify and list all the families living below poverty line and then such families are given a package of loan and subsidy for purchasing income generating assets to supplement their meagre family incomes. Income generating assets could include a dairy unit (milk cattle), sheep unit, poultry unit, mechanical unit, petty shop, weaving unit, or any other trade specific to the needs of a particular area.

Main objectives of the IRDP are to help the families living below poverty line to firstly acquire an income generating assets by providing a loan and subsidy package and then enabling such families to have sustained inflows of additional income and finally helping them to cross the poverty line. Another objective of IRDP is to provide training inputs to acquire technical capabilities before running the micro-enterprises through another sub-programme of IRDP called Training Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM). Another objective is to provide second dose of assistance to the beneficiaries so that the additional income is generated for a longer period of time, helping the concerned family to become self-sufficient.

As already mentioned, the scheme is financed through a loan- subsidy package. The loan component, which generally is 50 to 75 per cent of the project cost, is provided by a commercial bank operating in that area. The subsidised or differential interest rate is charged by the bank and repayment of the loan component begins after an initial lock-in period. Remaining part is provided by the subsidy component given by the government. In case of scheduled caste/scheduled tribe beneficiaries, the subsidy component is larger than in case of general category beneficiaries. Second package of loan and subsidy is given only to those beneficiaries who do not default in repayment of instalments of their first loan.

Q. 9. What were the aims with which Panchayati Raj was

created in India? Have these aims been fulfilled? What is the present position of the Panchayati Raj?

(Civil Services Exam (Main) 1983)

Ans. 9. At the time of framing the Constitution of India, despite Gandhiji's strong views in favour of local self-governments, the framers of the Constitution merely introduced a provision in Article 40 of the Constitution regarding Panchayati Raj institutions making efforts to establish Panchayats a part of Directive Principles of State Policy. But in spite of that many States had well-established Panchayati Raj system even prior to Constitutional amendments (73rd and 74th) in 1992. The aims of creating these institutions in India were manifold. Firstly, it was aimed at giving power of local governance to the people at the Panchayat level, so that the planning and development with respect to bare minimum needs of the community could take place locally and people do not have to go to far off places for small little works. Further objective was to have block and district level planning by decentralising the planning process to the lower level, so that locally felt needs could be met. In addition, the objective was also to delegate certain powers to tax, certain authority to supervise government institutions at village/panchayat level and to share the burden of governance to some extent.

Except in a few States where the aims were fulfilled and the States concerned delegated the powers and authority to the Panchayati Raj institutions, in most of the States the said aims were not fulfilled. Moreover, no uniform system was adopted by States where the system existed. Even the States which adopted the system half-heartedly, were reluctant to get the elections conducted to these institutions with regular periodicity. Hence, it was felt that unless these institutions were given Constitutional status, the States would neither be keen to adopt the system nor would have a uniform one. On the basis of above, 73rd Constitutional Amendment was enacted in 1992, inserting part IX to the Constitution. The new system envisaged direct election by the people in the same manner as at the Union and State level, in addition to reservation for women. Moreover, Election Commission was to be constituted in every State for this purpose. After the Amendment, alongwith 74th Amendment, the State legislatures were required to enact detailed laws according to the guidelines provided by the Constitutional provisions. These enactments by the States were required to define details as to the powers and functions of various organs.

Further, the Panchayati Raj system is supposed to be three-tier with institutions at the village level, district level and intermediate level between the village and district level, where the population of the State is more than 20 lakh. In addition to the reservation of one-third seats for women, Article 243D provides for reservation of seats in these institutions for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. These reservations would be in consonance with the provisions of Article 334, which deals with reservation for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The new Constitutional provision also

provides that every Panchayat shall continue for five years after its first meeting. Further, any one with over 21 years of age and having all other qualifications for seeking election to a State legislature is eligible to be chosen as a member of the Panchayat. The Panchayats can be entrusted with the responsibility of (a) preparing plans for economic development (b) implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice (c) and in regard to 29 items like land improvements, minor irrigation, fisheries, education etc. listed in the 11th schedule of the Constitution. The present constitutional provision also envisages that every five years the State governments shall appoint a Finance Commission to review the financial position of the Panchayats and make recommendations regarding distribution of net proceeds of taxes between the States and the Panchayats, what taxes etc. may be assigned to the Panchayats and what grant-in aid could be given to them.

Q. 10 The following is the analysis of the marks obtained by 70 students in a question paper of total marks of 75. Present the data in tabular form and find what percentage of hostellers scored 30 or more but less than 50 marks.

'Thirty or more but less than 40 marks were obtained by 14 students of whom males including 4 hostellers were 8 and female day scholars were 2. Forty marks and above but below 50 were obtained by 26 students of whom males including 6 day scholars, were 16 and female hostellers were 5. Thirty students got 50 marks or above, of these 7 were female day scholars and 14 were males including 8 hostellers.'

Ans. 10. The above data can be represented in the following tabular form

ANALYSIS OF MARKS OBTAINED BY 70 STUDENTS

Marks obtained	Male students			Female students			Total students		
	Hostellers (H)	Day scholars (D)	Total (T)	H	D	T	H	D	T
30 to 39	4	4	8	4	2	6	(8)	6	14
40 to 49	10	6	16	5	5	10	(15)	11	26
50 and above	8	6	14	9	7	16	17	13	30
Total	22	16	38	18	14	32	40	30	70

Total No. of Hostellers = 40

No. of Hostellers who scored more than 30 but less than 50 marks = 8 + 15 = 23 (bracketed above)

Percentage of hostellers who score more than 30 but less than 50 marks = $\frac{23}{40} \times 100 = 57.5\%$ Ans

Improve Your Word Power

1. **approbation:** (a) suggestion (b) recommendation (c) criticism (d) approval.

2. **buoy:** (a) encourage (b) borrow (c) knock (d) bury.

3. **contrite:** (a) negligent (b) intelligent (c) repentant (d) arrogant.

4. **deify:** (a) reject (b) worship (c) select (d) permit.

5. **erudite:** (a) moderate (b) proud (c) brave (d) learned.

6. **flair:** (a) donation (b) invention (c) talent (d) discovery.

7. **gauge:** (a) interfere (b) measure (c) travel (d) research.

8. **hogtie:** (a) satisfy (b) spoil (c) compare (d) restrain.

9. **impish:** (a) mischievous (b) innocent (c) helpful (d) defensive.

10. **jobbery:** (a) short-cut (b) social service (c) silent suffering (d) unfair means.

11. **luminary:** (a) politician (b) social worker (c) wise man

(d) scientist.

12. **malleable:** (a) rigid (b) adaptable (c) comfortable (d) reasonable.

13. **namby-pamby:** (a) sentimental (b) practical (c) ideal (d) historical.

14. **provender:** (a) demote (b) starve (c) enrich (d) feed.

15. **rancour:** (a) goodwill (b) bitterness (c) understanding (d) conflict.

16. **soft-pedal:** (a) play down (b) investigate (c) carry out (d) hot up.

17. **tizzy:** (a) clarity (b) confusion (c) information (d) tradition.

18. **voluble:** (a) silent (b) secretive (c) talkative (d) imaginary.

19. **whodunit:** (a) ugly face (b) interesting story (c) angry mob (d) detective story.

20. **yank:** (a) pull (b) push (c) punish (d) promise.

morning after her angry outbursts.

4. **deify:** (b) worship.

—In India we tend to *deify* our leaders and are unable to shake off their troublesome legacies.

5. **erudite:** (d) learned, wise, scholarly.

—We were immensely enlightened by the *erudite* lecture of the visiting professor from a foreign university.

6. **flair:** (c) talent, gift.

—The woman writer still retains her characteristic *flair* for intimate interlocution

(conversation) with the reader.

7. **gauge:** (b) measure, evaluate.

—It will take some time to fully *gauge* the long-term economic effects of Pokhran II blasts.

8. **hogtie:** (d) restrain, impede

—It is quite silly and strange that the five nuclear powers want to *hogtie* others from looking after their security interests.

9. **impish:** (a) mischievous.

—The author's narration brings out the quiet courage and *impish* humour of the Sardar (Sardar Patel)

10. **jobbery:** (d) unfair means (for financial/political advantage).

—The point of contention between the two rival parties is the existing monopoly over *jobbery* of one party being threatened by the other.

11. **luminary:** (c) wise man, celebrity.

—The literary get together included many a *luminary* of the State.

12. **malleable:** (b) adaptable.

—More often than not it is the young who are more *malleable* than the old.

13. **namby-pamby:** (a) sentimental.

—After years of *namby-pamby* ambiguity, India has decided to take a new road in matters of her defence and

foreign policy.

14. **provender:** (d) feed, support

—For decades USA has humoured, *provendered*, dominated and armed Pakistan in order to keep the sub-continent unstable.

15. **rancour:** (b) bitterness.

—The latest book on Kashmir by a Pakistani author is strangely free of the usual *rancour*, and rancid (stale) rhetoric against India.

16. **soft-pedal:** (a) play down.

—A friendly State administration can bail out the lady by *soft-peddalling* the cases (against her) by putting up a weak prosecution in the court

17. **tizzy:** (b) confusion, nervousness.

—When the special court ordered the attachment of party's immovable properties, the party leaders were found in a *tizzy*.

18. **voluble:** (c) talkative.

—He is known for his *voluble* reactions or protests over trivial matters.

19. **whodunit:** (d) detective story or play.

—The conspiracy story itself is not a *whodunit* but a narration of facts based on official records.

20. **yank:** (a) pull.

—Some of the programmes which had been *yanked* off the tube due to non-payment of dues by their producers, are now back on the air.

ANSWERS

1. **approbation:** (d) approval, appreciation, admiration.

—By successfully conducting nuclear tests, the government has rightly earned the *approbation* of its people.

2. **buoy:** (a) encourage.

—A former Chief Minister is trying (every trick in the trade) to *buoy* his sagging political career by raking up the dead issues.

3. **contrite:** (c) repentant, penitent, sorry.

—She was *contrite* the

Questions on Economic and Social Problems

Q. 'The Cooperative Movement is merely an outdated concept and should be forgotten as such.' Discuss, giving arguments *For and Against* the concept of cooperation.

Ans. *Broadly speaking, cooperation refers to an institutional framework to organize self-help among those who participate in it. In general, such an organization consists of persons of small means. Unable to face powerful market forces like competition, these people get together and organize themselves into cooperatives. Membership is entirely voluntary and the management of this organization is fully democratic.*

The cooperative movement has been in existence in India for over 90 years. Diametrically different views exist about the progress made by the cooperative movement. There are some who denounce it as a total failure and others who don't regard it as a total failure but point out many weaknesses and shortcomings in the movement.

Arguments Against

1. The movement has not fulfilled the main purpose for which the movement was initially launched, namely, supply of credit to the farmers and to save them from the clutches of the moneylenders.

2. It has not much to show in the field on non-credit spheres. Critics, in this context, point to the slow growth of cooperatives in the field of processing of agricultural produce, marketing, distribution of consumer products etc. Besides this, the movement is said to be very inadequate and also shown poor performance in urban areas.

3. Cooperative societies do not command adequate resources. There is no worthwhile increase in saving by members. Even in the context of usage of resources, it is pointed out that the working of these societies is so deficient that very often the loans advanced by the Reserve Bank of India are not fully utilized.

4. Farmers are not adequately supplied with credit for all their needs. As a result, many farmers, in particular small farmers, are unable to get out of the clutches of moneylenders. Also, they cannot become full supporters of the cooperative movement. Because of its preoccupation with the supply of credit, the movement has not done much in the non-credit spheres.

5. The movement is neither properly managed, nor does it find the right type of leadership. Favouritism and nepotism have plagued the movement, particularly in connection with the distribution of resources among members. Management of these institutions often passes into the hands of big landlords who use them for their private gains.

6. The principle of self-reliance, which is basic to the movement, is not promoted. For a considerable part of their finances, these institutions depend upon outside sources. Their own resources i.e. share money and deposits, do not show much increase.

Arguments For

1. Due to the cooperative movement, a large amount of credit at low interest is now available in villages. Credit advanced by cooperative societies and land development banks is definitely cheaper than that given by moneylenders.

2. The habit to save and use the banking media for ordinary transactions has received a fillip among the people in general and among rural people in particular. As a result, a part of the hoarded wealth has also begun to be used for productive purposes through banks.

3. Many benefits have accrued from non-credit cooperative societies. Farmers have benefitted in respect of marketing of agricultural produce, purchases of agricultural inputs, supply of irrigation facilities, etc. In the non-agricultural sector, craftsmen engaged in small and cottage

industries, small producers and consumers have gained much from this movement.

4. There have been benefits related to the moral, political and educative aspects. Although these cannot be put into statistics, they exist nevertheless. For example, the requirement of regular elections to the offices of the cooperative institutions inculcates a healthy political awareness among the members. The experience in working in the movement has the educative influence of knowing how strength emanates from unity and cooperation among members.

5. Socially, the movement has contributed a great deal in changing and improving the traditions and customs of the people, curbing wasteful expenses and furthering the habit of keeping expenditures within the limits of income.

Taking an overall view, we cannot really claim that the cooperative movement has been a total success. It has failed in some important respects. But it does have some major successes to its credit. Therefore, the performance can be said to be a mixed one.

Q. 'Although our tax system is marked by some healthy features, it remains—because of several shortcomings—an unsatisfactory system.' Discuss.

Ans. The Indian tax system, despite some healthy features, is weak in a significant way. The following glaring shortcomings highlight the weakness of the system:

(a) **Inadequate tax revenue:** The tax revenue has all along been a small figure, despite the fact that there has been a rising trend in it since the fifties. As a percentage of GDP, it is only about 16 per cent. It is much less than that in a number of countries where it is in the range of 30 per

cent and above.

(b) **Lopsided and regressive:** The tax structure leans rather too heavily on indirect taxes, therefore it is quite lopsided. This tendency has increased since 1950-51, when indirect taxes were a little more than 60 per cent as compared to the present when around 80 per cent of revenue comes from them. Over time, with the share of direct taxes declining and that of indirect taxes rising, tax structure has become regressive in character. Direct taxes, whose share has declined, fall mostly on people with higher incomes, and most of the indirect taxes, whose share has increased, burdens poorer sections. Hence it is against the principle of equity and social justice.

(c) **Inflexible:** Inflexibility is another defect that characterises the Indian tax system. This is largely because it depends on urban incomes, and leaves out almost completely agricultural incomes from the purview of direct taxes. India's tax system has a much reduced scope for manoeuvrability in the field of personal taxation. Moreover, agriculture, being out of bound for taxes, offers plenty of scope for camouflaging black money and evading taxes. Thus even while national income rises, taxes don't. The indirect tax system is also characterised by inelasticity. For example, a very large part of the basic excise duties, is still levied on a specific basis, and not on value or *ad valorem* basis. This has rendered the excise system less price elastic i.e. with rise in the value of the goods, tax-revenue does not rise proportionately.

(d) **Large evasion:** Besides inflexibility of the tax system, there is its faulty structure resulting in large-scale evasion of taxes. Many causes have been responsible for this—corrupt business practices, ineffective tax enforcement; high rates of income and sales taxation, which prevailed till recently; undue curbs on business expenses, on entertainment, advertisement, travel etc; concealment as part of non-taxed agricultural incomes etc. Tax evasion has been an important factor contributing to the rise of a "parallel economy". Also, it has been a source of continuing loss of revenue from a growing base.

(e) **Inequity:** Direct taxes have another weakness, namely, their unequal treatment meted out to different people, with more benefits for people with higher incomes and wealth. People with higher incomes are evading tax with the consequent increase in the tax-burden on people with lower incomes. The inequity is also further accentuated because of indirect taxes which form a large-proportion of total tax receipts and which generally fall heavily on the poorer sections of population.

(f) **Lacks horizontal equity:** Another serious flaw in our tax system is that the provision for meeting "equal treatment of equals" has been altogether ignored, although too much emphasis has been laid on the vertical equity i.e. asking the rich to pay larger taxes (progressive taxation). The horizontal equity, which too is an aspect of the principle of ability to pay, has in fact been violated by giving various concessions, deductions and exemptions to provide for higher incomes to some.

(g) **Discourages employment.** The tax system is tilted heavily against the labour-intensive investment. For example, investment allowance for some years had been so designed that the amount of fiscal benefit varied directly with the amount of capital invested in new machinery and plant, so that the higher capital-investment attracted larger benefits. In other words, no consideration is given to the number of jobs that are likely to be created. Not only that, with more capital intensive technology, there is a greater loss of tax revenue than in case of labour-intensive technology. Hence, society loses on three counts: less employment, wastage of capital where labour intensive technology can be substituted, and loss of revenue to the government.

(h) **Distortion of prices :** Indirect taxes cause some unhealthy effects in the economy. They have, over the years, raised prices. With the tax system being little elastic, much of the increase in revenue has been due to increase in tax rates. The price structure often gets distorted due to varying and multiple point tax rates.

Q. What is the difference between the occupational structure in developed

countries and underdeveloped countries? Highlight the characteristics of India's occupational structure in that context.

Ans. By occupational structure of a country we mean the distribution of workforce in different occupations or industries of the country. All occupations or industries are broadly divided into three groups (i) primary or largely agricultural sector (ii) secondary or industrial sector and (iii) tertiary or service sector. In the agricultural sector, we include cultivation and other occupations allied to agriculture, like animal husbandry, fishery and forestry. This sector is primarily based on land or Nature. In the industrial sector are included large and small manufacturing units, construction etc. These manufacture various products based on raw materials produced in the primary sector. The service sector includes trade, transport, communication, bank and other government and non-government services.

There are certain very strong differences between the occupational structure of underdeveloped and developed countries. In *underdeveloped countries*, a bulk of labour force is engaged in agriculture. The rest is divided between the secondary/industrial and tertiary/service sectors. Of the two, a larger proportion is engaged in the service sector and a smaller proportion in the industrial sector. The reasons for this are very clear. Because of the low incomes in underdeveloped countries, a large part of income gets used up in purchasing food and other agricultural products, leaving very little to be spent on non-agricultural goods and services. As a result, there is not much demand for goods and service of the industrial and service sectors. Further, modern capital goods and techniques needed by industries and services are very inadequate in these countries. For these reasons these sectors are unable to expand and as such cannot provide large work opportunities for the labour force. The increasing population, therefore, seeks work largely in the agricultural sector for want of jobs in non-agricultural sectors.

In developed countries, a very large proportion of workforce, of over 65 to 70 per cent, finds work in the service sector. Next in importance is industry with 20 to 30 per cent engaged in it. Agriculture provides work to only 3 to 7 per cent of the workers. The reasons for this are obvious. In the developed countries, because of high incomes, there is great demand for industrial goods and services. To meet these demands, there is enough capital stock and modern techniques. As a result, more work is created in manufacturing industries and services. In the sphere of agriculture, with the application of machines, chemical fertilizers, modern technical know-how etc., more output is produced with a small number of labourers.

Certain salient features of India's workforce are:

In comparison with the developed countries, the proportion of economically active population in India is rather low. Among the main reasons are the low participation rate among females, less availability of work etc. It also shows largeness in the number of dependents on the workforce.

Second, the lower ratio of females in the workforce. Broadly speaking, it is much less than half of the male participation; at times it has been still lower. Quite a large part of explanation lies in the fact that most of the women are housewives, whose work is not counted as part of productive work on the ground that these are neither working, nor looking for jobs. This is in line with the tradition accepted for the calculation of national income, wherein the work performed by housewives is excluded.

Third, is the higher work participation rates in the rural areas compared to that in the urban areas. This is applicable to both males and females. This is largely due to the fact that the nature of rural work, largely agriculture, is such where, besides males, females can also participate. In urban areas, both for males and females, there are either full time jobs or no jobs. Again, females of the category of housewives constitute a large proportion of the females residing in urban areas.

India's occupational structure thus has a predominant tilt towards that of underdeveloped countries i.e. the structure reflects the fact that India is still not fully on the path of development, leave alone being in a state of complete development.

Q. What has the government proposed to achieve through the development of the joint sector? What can we include in the rationale and scope of the joint sector enterprises?

Ans. Simply stated, the joint sector is a form of partnership between the private sector and the government. When the joint sector was initiated and encouraged, the government had certain proposals in mind. Based on these, the following can be said to be included in the rationale and scope of the joint sector enterprises.

(i) **Social control over industries:** The joint sector had been recommended as an effective means for controlling monopoly, concentration of economic power and business malpractices. Besides, the joint sector can be used to promote socio-economic objectives of the government, such as maintenance of reasonable prices, regional dispersal of industries, investment in research to improve future technological capabilities, developments of reports etc.

(ii) **Failure of private and public sectors:** Over the years, many shortcomings of the private sector have come into focus—such as the failure to mobilise adequate funds, its dependence on public financial institutions to help it out or to start new enterprises, the use of limited resources on essential goods industries, etc. The public sector has also been criticised for heavy centralisation of direction and management and paucity of organisational resources. Hence, a mix of the two sectors was suggested.

(iii) **Acceleration of economic growth:** By providing public support and patronage, the joint sector can encourage small and medium entrepreneurs, help them to mobilise resources to procure machinery and equipment and build up confidence to face the uncertainties of modern business. The sharing of control and

management would not only provide a built-in check on the economic power derived by the large houses through these enterprises, but would also enable the government to regulate the functioning of these enterprises from within, rather than operating through cumbersome external price and distribution controls.

(iv) **State-sponsored industrialisation:** The joint sector may be regarded as a part of the strategy of State-sponsored industrialization. The government decides on the choice of projects which are desirable from a social point of view and persuades private parties to join hands. This will result in an increased social orientation in the utilisation of private investible surpluses. Besides, it is a positive method of bringing about a balanced pattern of investment, as against the system of licensing which is only a negative instrument.

(v) **Extension of Public Control:** The joint sector may also be used to remove the contradictions involved in the Indian concept of mixed economy in which the public sector has the responsibility to make heavy investment with little or no return and the private sector is allowed to function in those industries which yield larger returns with little investment.

(vi) **Mobilisation of financial resources:** There has been an absence of investment opportunities and due to various constraints in industrial investment, much of the saving of the corporate sector and the household sector remains idle. The joint sector could be of great use in mobilising savings.

(vii) **Mobilisation of Techno-managerial Resources:** Just as the joint sector can be used to mobilise financial resources, it can be used to mobilise scarce human resources as well. Both large industrial houses and medium entrepreneurs will be useful here.

(viii) **Broad-based entrepreneurship:** If the joint sector enterprises are permitted into a wide range of industries, many small entrepreneurs will be able to come forward and take advantage of government's support and facilitating role.

It took two months and every body began to see the Pakistani intruders from Kargil. Pakistan's adventurism resulted in its diplomatic isolation and military defeat. In India the whole nation rallied behind the military's Operation Vijay. The media gave a new meaning and content to the war which got viewed in drawing rooms.

Even as the intrusions have been evicted at great cost and Kargil promises to become an election issue, many uncomfortable questions must be answered. How did such a deep ingress in a sensitive sector take place, catching us off-guard? What explains this massive intelligence failure? Have the security parameters in the Indo-Pak context been redefined? Were the Indian forces fully prepared for a contingency such as Kargil? What are the lessons we can draw from Kargil?

Ironically, a government which had laid the ground for international security talks in the United Nations

Northern Pakistan has nearly 700 units of Pakistani nuclear warheads as "undeclared" weapons. Pakistan also appears to have a nuclear area 80 km stretch along the border with India. The state is aiming at increasing the sensitivity of its nuclear force to include the Low Altitude Region.

Simultaneously, [redacted] intended to launch an offensive against the Turtle Creek [redacted] with a view to turning the defense.

The training plan rested on two major assumptions. It hoped that when the situation was detected, India would not be in a position of aggressive vacuum, and that the U.S. also hoped that the Soviet Union would not

AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS

mainly the US — would intervene to prevent the conflict escalating into a nuclear showdown. Thus, Pakistan would be left with enormous gains — that was the closest that Pakistan had gotten to avenging its ignominious defeat of 1971.

LoC Demarcation

In attempting to redefine the LoC in the northern sector, Pakistan Army would have portrayed a major victory. It would also enable them to infiltrate more militants from the North because induction into the Rajouri-Poonch and Uri-Kupwara sectors was proving to be difficult and costly due to heavy Indian deployment.

Pakistan's first attempt to challenge the issue was by reiterating that the LoC in northern area was not fully demarcated. Pakistan's selective amnesia, articulated eloquently by Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz, about the sanctity of the LoC, was soon to be exposed.

The LOC was delineated by military teams from India and Pakistan, headed

by L. L. C. and S. B. Khan, J.C. and G. H. Khan, respectively. The task of following the 100 km distance of the 100 km race was assigned to the following: S. B. Khan, J.C. and G. H. Khan, respectively. The task of following the 100 km distance of the 100 km race was assigned to the following: S. B. Khan, J.C. and G. H. Khan, respectively.

As a consequence of the Shimla Agreement, the DoC replaced the Cease-Fire Line established by the Karachi agreement in 1949. India's purpose of seeking a change in the terminology was to strengthen its future negotiating

gation strategy by denying the United Nations Military Observers Group for India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) any future role as the new LoC would be distinct from the CFL. The UNMOGIP was monitoring

Clause IV of the Shimla Agreement states: "In Jammu and Kashmir, the LoC (resulting from the ceasefire of December 17, 1971) shall be respected by both sides. Neither side shall alter it unilaterally, irrespective of any differences and legal interpretations. Both sides further undertake to refrain from the threat or use of force in violation of the line."

Supernaturalism, as 19, metaphysics and additionally being in the narrative form without revealing the difference between the two binary communities (11, 1972 and 1972) exchange.

The Miller administration has been South Block's only attempt to respond by fishing out the silver lining and selling Pakistan's "South-Middle East" crisis.

tence of a delineated LoC and need to maintain its sanctity was made known by the US.

Sartaj Aziz took recourse to the precipitous terrain and said a margin of error in identifying the LoC was possible. A few hundred metres maybe, but a blatant intrusion ranging from five to eight kms was downright outrageous, and it took the defence brass almost three weeks to plan the operation to evict the Pakistanis after the intrusions were detected on May 6, 1999.

Difficult and Complex Operations

Once the army patrols detected the intruders on the Kargil ridges, it erred in estimating that 100 infiltrators were occupying 25 km of Indian territory and that it would take 48 hours to evict them.

But when the enormity of the situation sunk in, *Operation Vijay* was launched on May 26, to flush out the intruders. On the second day of the air strikes by IAF a MiG-27 flamed-out and its pilot Flt-Lt Nachiketa was taken POW. Sqn Ldr Ajay Ahuja, who followed in his MiG-21 to locate Nachiketa, was downed and killed by the Pakistanis in cold blood.

On May 28 a Mi-17 helicopter was targeted by a Stinger missile, killing the four crew. Causing obvious alarm, the IAF reviewed its operational philosophy.

The performance of fighter aircraft flying at speeds close to 1,000 km/hour is greatly restricted at altitudes of 20,000 ft, where the atmosphere is rarified.

Compounding the pilot's problem is the difficulty in identifying small targets like bunkers within seconds, because the aircraft must remain for the least time over the target area to avoid being shot down. Restricted area for manoeuvre in mountains and the need to avoid crossing the LoC while pulling away after the attack impose further problems in providing close air support.

In mountains the accuracy of delivery gets further affected by the steep slopes and crevasses because even a small miss can cause the bomb to land

thousands of yards away in the valley. Adding to the problem of navigation and target identification is bad weather and poor visibility.

Brought in by the IAF now were the Mirage-2000 aircraft which could deliver precision-guided munitions, like the laser-guided bomb, with remarkable accuracy from a stand-off distance. This had the desired effect, but the restriction still remained of not crossing the LoC. The effective use of air power for larger battlefield interdiction was thus denied, but even with the stipulated restraints the IAF performed its task of softening the objectives and limited targeting of enemy



logistics camps and columns on our side of the LoC. This greatly helped the army's operations and marked a new chapter in joint operations at such altitudes. The IAF's performance even earned a spot of praise from the US.

Despite the initial slippages, the Indian Army's resoluteness in pushing back the aggressors was evident. The full scope of artillery was brought to bear on the enemy prior to the launching of infantry assaults. The politically haunted Bofors earned its spurs by demonstrating a magical punch. In a daring employment of this weapon, the gunners moved it up to take direct pot-shots at the objective.

The Russian BM-21 Grad (meaning 'hail' in Russian) rained rockets on Tiger Hill, pulverising the enemy. The snows smelt of cordite, according to the assaulting troops.

Notwithstanding the pounding by air and artillery of the Pakistanis perched on the mountain tops in well-fortified defences, the infantry bore the brunt to

evict the enemy by physical assaults. To do this the foot soldier had to physically negotiate those precipitous heights to close on to the enemy and engage in hand-to-hand combat.

Such is the bag of disadvantages on the attacker's side that a superiority ratio in excess of 'six to one' was needed. Compounding the infantry's problem of attacking in the mountains are the narrow ridges on which the men snail upwards with heavy loads of their weapons and ammunition. Lack of cover makes these troops easy targets.

The placement and movement of reserves in time to influence the battle is a nightmare for the commander. Use of helicopters is restricted because most operations are by night. The move of administration and logistics stores is again mostly on manual basis within the combat area where mules have their limitations.

Accorded priority by the army was to evict the intrusion from Drass sector, even as operations were mounted in Batalik towards the east. The capture of the crucial Tololing peak on June 13 was the war's turning point. This paved the way for the capture of Tiger Hill on July 4 which marked a major victory for India and sent Nawaz Sharif scurrying to USA.

Meanwhile, a Pakistani intrusion bid in the southern Siachen Glacier was foiled. Operations were also continuing to capture some key posts in Mushkoh valley.

Even though Nawaz Sharif gave in to US pressure for a pull-out, India's operations were to continue in the absence of visible indications of Pakistani withdrawal. Having captured Jubar, Batalik was cleared by July 9, when the warfront shifted to Mushkoh.

After a meeting of the DGMOs of both countries in Amritsar, Pakistan began the withdrawal of its troops on July 11.

By now evidence was flowing about Pakistan Army's involvement, although it had been denying it all along. Nawaz Sharif and Sartaj Aziz had maintained that the intruders were 'Mujahideen', and that they had no hold over these

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'freedom fighters'

Besides captured arms, ammunition and equipment, a plethora of clinching documentary evidence was provided by Army Headquarters to the media and diplomatic corps in New Delhi to prove the involvement of Pakistan army. Displayed for viewing in South Block were items of clothing and accoutrement, web equipment with Pakistan Ordnance Factory markings, army pay books, identity cards and personal diaries recovered from the bodies of dead soldiers.

Also recovered were a copy of Pakistan Army's Glossary of Military Terms (1990 edition), a news-letter issued by the Military Housing Directorate of the Adjutant General's Branch and routine official documents. Personal letters and greeting cards to army officers were also found.

While the retreating Pakistan army abandoned their dead, the Indians buried them with full honours and with Muslim rites. Overcoming tremendous logistical hurdles, the Indian soldiers brought the bodies of two Pakistani officers to New Delhi and offered to hand them over to Pakistan High Commission, through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

It was after much prevarication and reluctance that the bodies were accepted by Pakistan and flown back for a funeral in their homeland.

Pakistan used NII troops belonging to Pakistan Occupied Kashmir so that the casualties could be limited to that region. Only a 'rogue army' could rig up such a sinister design, and it was left to diplomacy to salvage the situation.

Pakistan Diplomatically isolated

Along with military defeat, Pakistan faced the prospect of diplomatic isolation. Right in the beginning, on June 4, President Clinton asked Pakistan to respect the LoC, and similar sentiments were voiced by the G 8 nations.

Pakistan over-estimated the extent of support it would receive from its close ally China. When Nawaz Sharif flew to Beijing on June 28, he did not expect a show of neutrality. China itself is wary of Islamic fundamentalism seeping into Xinjiang where Uighur separatists are already restive. Nawaz cut short his visit in the absence of any visible support and in his wake followed a statement from Beijing asking for the LoC to be respected.

After the fall of Tiger Hill, Nawaz Sharif sought an urgent meeting with President Clinton and dashed to Washington hoping to be bailed out. Earlier, General Zinni, commander of US Central Command had visited Pakistan and warned the military brass against nuclear adventurism.

The joint statement issued by Clinton and Nawaz Sharif emphasised that both shared the

view that the current fighting in Kargil was dangerous and contained the seeds of a wider conflict, and that it was vital for the peace of South Asia that the LoC in Kashmir be respected by both parties, in accordance with the 1972 Shimla accord.

President Clinton said that he would take "personal interest in encouraging an expeditious resumption and intensification of bilateral efforts, once the sanctity of the LoC has been fully restored."

President Clinton had kept Prime Minister Vajpayee informed during his talks with Nawaz Sharif. It was a clear diplomatic win for India. Though Pakistan asserts that it had succeeded in internationalising the Kashmir issue, the US made it clear that it had no intention to mediate.

While Pakistan's brazen aggression had the international community ranged against it, India scored diplomatic points by the exercise of tremendous restraint by not crossing the LoC. India demonstrated remarkable patience even after Pakistan handed over six mutilated bodies of army personnel captured by them. This was an outrageous act and a war crime.

Nuclear Brinkmanship

Apart from the concern of a widening conflict, the US was worried about its escalation into a nuclear exchange. Unrestrained rhetoric and nuclear brinkmanship from Islamabad came in sharp contrast to India's restraint.

Washington Post quoted a senior US administration official as saying that "this crisis could have escalated out of control, including in a

way that could have brought in nuclear weapons, without either party consciously deciding that it wanted to go to nuclear war"

In India the RSS mouthpiece *Panchajanya* had also queered the pitch and called for a nuclear strike, but it stopped at that when the RSS realised how damaging and counter-productive it would be.

While Pakistan can be excused for its bluster, India cannot go unaccused for its failure to estimate the contours of deterrence in a nuclear context. It was never realised that a nuclear capability does not bestow deterrence at the subconventional level. Rather it resulted in raising the threshold of India's tolerance—because both countries must exercise greater restraint to prevent a nuclear flare up—and upped the level to which Pakistan could heighten tensions and openly back the insurgency in the State without fear of retaliation. This suited Pakistan admirably.

Little wonder, from August 1998 onward, Pakistan spread its tentacles to the Rajouri-Punch belt and attempted a strike by militants in Chamba in neighbouring Himachal Pradesh. Along with this came the shelling in Kargil sector which made thousands flee for safety. The shelling of border villages was expanded to include Kupwara, Uri and even the Jammu region.

The new and heightened phase of

Modernising the Armed Forces

The Kargil episode has shown the need for modernisation of our armed forces. It has also showed complacency and lack of defence preparedness, arising out of 28 years of peace, since 1971. What is needed is:

Army: The army needs self loading rifles, self-propelled guns, assault rifles and artillery guns (the last such acquisition was the Bofors gun, since surrounded in controversy). The Main Battle Tank (MBT) is nowhere near completion, despite DRDO claims of indigenisation of defence production. The army does not have 155 mm howitzers. Besides electronic surveillance systems and thermal imaging devices are also required.

Air Force: The IAF loses one fighter jet for every 2,500 hours of flying, while the Royal Air Force (RAF) loses one in every 48,000 hours. This is attributed to lack of the Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT). Today, India's fleet of MiG-21 and MiG-23 is vastly reduced because of the high rate of crashes. Many planes have been grounded. The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) was to have been delivered by mid-90s but is not expected to enter squadron force till 2015. The Russian Sukhoi-30 has been inducted, but the IAF needs more planes and the spares to go with them. It has been dependent on the Russia and needs to develop other sources. Airforce also needs heat-seeking missiles and laser rangefinders.

Navy: The INS Vikrant was decommissioned in 1996 and the INS Virat is on its last legs. Unless the Navy gets the Admiral Gorshkov, which is being negotiated, it could find itself without an aircraft carrier. The submarine fleet is ageing. The Navy needs to add to its fleet of Sea Harriers, besides Airborne Early Warning System to counter Pakistan's Orion maritime patrol and strike aircraft, but that has not been forthcoming.

the Pakistani shelling would have indicated that nuclear weapons have severe limitations of deterrence even at the conventional level. But we failed to see through Pakistan's game plan.

Pakistan's rationale for its nuclear programme was that it would help to reopen the Kashmir issue and offset India's conventional edge. This is why Pakistan refuses to pledge a 'no first use'.

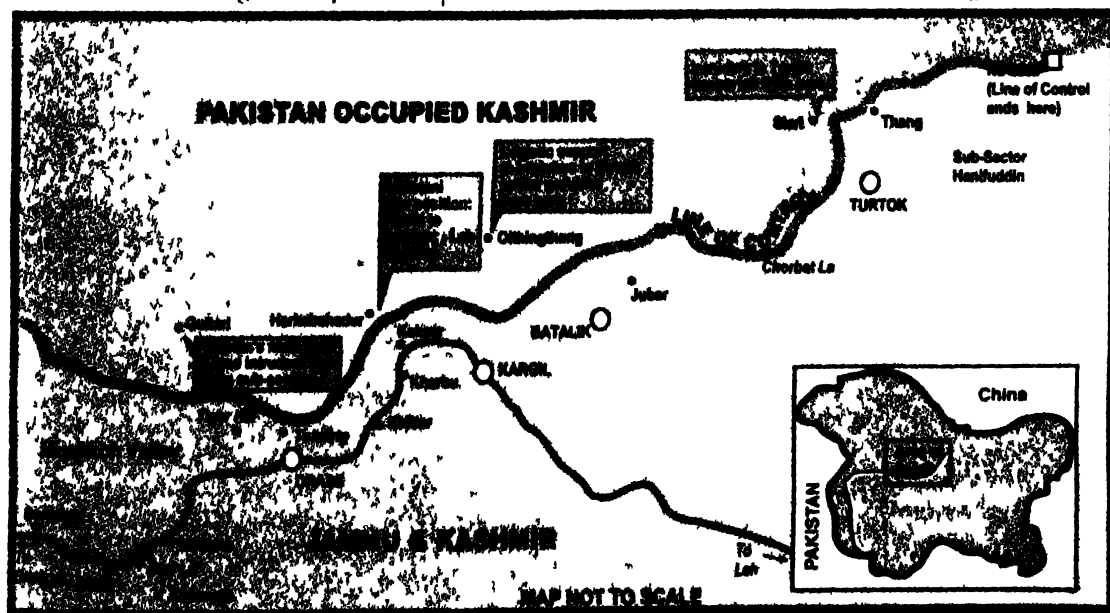
Need for Intelligence

The need for actionable strategic and tactical intelligence gets reiterated, more so in the nuclear context. We can allow our guard to be dropped only at our own peril.

A false sense of confidence generated by Pokhran II and the Lahore Declaration had percolated down the chain. George Fernandes, who had earlier

described China as India's threat number one, went so far as to state in a foreword to a new edition of *Guilty Men* of 1962 that the danger to India's security from Pakistan was but a myth that now stood exposed. Fernandes later went on to downplay the Kargil intrusion and said that the intruders would be evicted in 48 hours.

A string of lapses resulted in the



intelligence failure. In mid-1998 Pakistan purchased 50,000 pairs of snowboots from a Brussels firm. This should have alerted us, but the RAW man there was unaware of this. In October 1998 it was reported by IB operatives in Leh that 300-odd irregulars were being trained in two camps in PoK, for infiltration into Kargil in April. The MoD also received timely reports about Pakistan's use of remotely-piloted vehicles to monitor the Leh-Kargil sector.

There has been an evident lapse in integrating and analysing whatever incidental bits of information trickled in. This should have spurred the intelligence agencies to look for other indicators and charge their sources for additional information.

At the operational level, routine surveillance and patrolling in winter months was reduced. When the snows melted early this year, the move to reoccupy the posts vacated in winter was delayed. It was, thus, a costly failure of intelligence which left 415 Indian soldiers killed and over 585 injured.

Media War

The media displayed a sense of responsibility to wait for the war to finish until it could start asking uncomfortable questions. During the war it did a good job of informing the people, within existing constraints.

It was the media—both electronic and print—which flashed the heroics of many selfless soldiers who willingly martyred themselves—Capt Anuj Nayyar hit by a rocket-propelled grenade while recapturing Point 4875; Lt Haneefuddin who foiled the Pak bid in Turtuk, and after whom the sector is now named; Lt-Col R. Vishwanathan who perished while leading a rescue team; Lt Clifford Non-grum, the hero from Meghalaya and Capt Gogoi from Assam.

And, of course, Capt Vikram Batra, code-named Sher Shah, the hero of Tiger Hill. Critics say that excessive exposure to the media may have led this officer to take more risks.

An abiding media visual is that of body bags arriving home. Soaked in the media glare and with their privacy invaded, the next of kin were forced to

suppress their emotions.

Pakistan had used its media to advantage in the initial stages by displaying the wrecked remains of a downed MiG, and thereafter making a show of returning Ilt-Lt Nachiketa.

The banning of PTV in India may not have been the most efficient means of countering Pak's propaganda, for many in Pakistan also had stopped believing the disinformation doled out on their official channel.

Lessons Learnt

A committee to review the Kargil affair has been constituted with noted defence analyst K. Subrahmanyan as its chairman. Its members are: B.G. Verghese, a former journalist, and Lt-Gen (Retd) K.K. Hazari, a former Vice-Chief of Army Staff—he was part of the Arun Singh Committee that reviewed the working of the Ministry of Defence. Satish Chandra is the secretary of the committee, but his appointment has drawn flak because he is also chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee which doubles as the National Security Council Secretariate.

The committee has been asked to "review all events leading to the intrusion" and to recommend measures to safeguard national security. The report which this committee will submit in three months is bound to contain the following:

- Need for actionable strategic and tactical intelligence.
- Need to augment space-based and battlefield surveillance capabilities.
- Requirement to augment the military intelligence (MI) capabilities and need for an integrated Defence Intelligence Agency.
- Need to formalise the process of formulating intelligence assessments.
- Streamline procedure for vertical and horizontal dissemination of information.
- Need to formulate a viable information warfare strategy.
- Requirement for greater political-military fusion in policy formulation, and need to strengthen military-diplomatic leverage.
- Reducing bureaucratic delays and red-

tapism in the procurement of equipment and snow-clothing.

- Suitable weapons and equipment to upgrade high-altitude warfare capabilities in extreme cold climate.
- Upgrade the artillery and counter-bombardment capabilities in mountains (82 per cent of our casualties were due to enemy artillery fire).
- Review the IAF aircraft profile for enhanced effectiveness in mountains, including the urgency to induct a advanced jet trainer.
- Importance of periodic review of military preparedness.

The Future

The future depends on how seriously we take the lessons thrown up by Kargil. We have a short memory and do not address national security with the seriousness it deserves.

Pakistan is not going to abandon its Kashmir agenda easily, and will use fundamentalism to fuel the insurgency and terrorism. We witnessed heightened violence in Doda and Poonch districts and the hostage drama at the BSF base in Bandipur, even as the last of the intruders was being flushed out of Kargil.

With a bulk of army units now being pulled out from counter-insurgency tasks for deployment on the LoC, the police and paramilitary forces must upgrade their involvement in countering the proxy war.

By deploying two divisions in the Drass-Turtuk belt, we have Siachenised the entire mountain wasteland. Siachen is costing us Rs two crore a day, while the new deployment will burden the exchequer by an additional Rs five crore every day. While diverting funds is essential for defence, the most efficient means for pursuing national interests and security must be explored.

Despite *Operation Vijay*, Pakistan's artillery fire into Kargil continues! By choosing not to cross the LoC we may have set a precedent by which it may cost us much more to prevent other Kargils from happening. Which is why we need to use diplomacy and military power in the right proportion to acquire maximum leverage.

Jargon Busting—Part-I

Over the past few months, we have discussed a lot about the Internet, the Web and its implications. During this period haven't you been intimidated by all the jargon and TLAs (Three Letter Acronyms)? Well, don't fear! Help is at hand. This time we will take a look at precisely some of these terms.

Bandwidth: The transmission capacity of the lines that carry the Internet's electronic signals. The higher the bandwidth, the faster the network. Bandwidth is usually measured in kbps (kilo bits per second) or Mbps (Mega bits per second). 1 Mbps = 1024 kbps

Backbone: Any network that forms the central interconnection for Internet. A national backbone is a WAN (Wide Area Network), a corporate backbone can be a LAN (Local Area Network).

Dial-up Access: The process of dialing into the server gateway to the Internet through your telephone.

Dedicated/Leased Line: A private line leased from a telecommunications carrier, meant solely for the use of the party who pays for it. Usually very expensive. It is essentially a "hotline" between two points. A leased line can physically be a copper wire, satellite link, microwave, fibre optic cable, etc.

Domain Name: The unique name that identifies an Internet site. A given computer may have one or more domain name but a given domain name points only to one computer. For example: in the URL <http://www.ibm.com>, ibm.com is the domain name.

Download: Copy a file from the host computer (server) to your computer.

Firewall: A security system (hardware or software) that restricts traffic between a secure network and the outside world. The secure computer is the only computer in the organization actually connected to the Internet. Everyone in the organization must go through the host computer to connect to the Internet and vice versa.

Freeware: Software available on the Internet that doesn't cost anything!

FTP: File Transfer Protocol. A system for transferring files across the Internet

Gateway: A computer that provides a link for a network into the Internet.

GIF: Graphical Interchange Format. A format popularized in the mid-1980s by CompuServe for use in photo-quality images. Now commonly used everywhere online. The GIF format is popular because it uses a compression method to make files much smaller in size thus enabling a faster download onto your computer.

Hacker: On the Net, unlike among the general public, this is not a bad person; it is simply somebody who enjoys stretching hardware and software to their limits, seeing just what they can get their computers to do!

HomePage: The first page of a web site.

HTML: Hyper Text Markup Language. The coding used on web pages to define hyperlinks, graphics and the like. This is the language of the web pages

Intranet: Any network that uses Internet technologies, even if it's not connected to the Internet.

IP Address: The Internet Address of a computer on the Internet. A four-part number separated by periods. (Such as 191.147.160.40) which uniquely identifies a computer on the Internet. If a computer does not have an IP number, it is really not on the Internet.

ISP (Internet Service Provider): An ISP maintains a server that is directly connected to the Internet. You must connect through an ISP unless you are directly connected to the Internet.

Log on/Log in: The method, by which you identify yourself to a host computer. This often means typing in a username and password.

Log Off: Disconnect from a host system.

Netiquette: A set of common-sense guidelines for not annoying others! For example, typing in all capital letters in Email amounts to SHOUTING at the other person!

This Month's URL List

Career:
<http://www.collegeedge.com>
Step-by-step guidance into right college or university abroad. Good for scholarship search.

News/Entertainment:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk>
Your favorite news channel—on the web
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The third area in which success should be achieved is the personal or spiritual. This may have different meanings for different people, especially the young. The ability to find out why you are here, where you are going whether to excel or not and in what direction, are questions for true success.

In the family, friends and social area you have definite thinking about the type of family and social life which fits your personality. If you are a bachelor, you may have in mind a certain type of girl who will best complement you and share life with you.

In the career and financial area, you may genuinely wish to remain in the field in which you find yourself. Your goal may be to become more effective and more suc-

cessful in it by developing a more positive attitude.

If you are just starting out, you may wish to change the field work in which you are now beginning. This is not an action to take lightly and should only be done after wise counsel.

In all areas, one thing is certain—you must find out your own strengths, weaknesses and talents. Then you chart your own course toward success. Or you will simply fail by default, tossed about by circumstances to a destination of failure and the category of also-ran.

Be practical. Take your talent, tendencies and weaknesses into account. Be objective. On the other hand, your goal should be high to give you something to reach for. Satisfy your deep-down realization of what success for you should be in each particular area. Pen it down.

Achievement

HAVE a plan. Spark a sense of enthusiasm and drive for achieving your goal. Achievement is a great thriller.

Work toward your goal endlessly. Think, read and educate yourself for achieving the goal. Do not be unbalanced.

Use common sense and sage advice. Get it to achieve the goal you set.

Unless you want chance to control you, you will have to set your sights and master your environment. Define your goals. Determine to succeed and drive toward your goal. Zeal and enthusiasm are your steam.

Learn to organize your time. Every successful person knows this and follows this. This is an outstanding secret of success.

Taking into account your individual goals in the three areas of success, learn to plan out an overall schedule for each day, week and month.

Give enough time to career success, including extra reading and self-education assignments. Give plenty of time to build right relationships. Be sure to plan and schedule enough time for development of personal interests. This develops personality. *

Write down the things you want to do. This in it saves much time and effort. Many people call these little slips or cards "to do" lists. Put first things first. Do not neglect minor issues, but get at the big jobs early in your working day and allow plenty of time for their accomplishment.

Do one thing at a time. Let interruptions and mind-wandering not intrude. Stick to one job until you finish it. Put all your energy and mind-power into it.

Solitude

GET up early and get going full blast before any interruptions take over. Or, if your mind and body function better the other way, work late at night when it is quiet. You get time for thinking and good work. Solitude spurs creativity.

Be more efficient. You may wish to read and think about how to solve your problems. You will find many ways in which some of your tasks can be done in less time and more efficiently.

Organize your desk. You will save a great deal of time and effort simply by learning to have a definite place for everything—and keeping everything in its place!

A well-organized file cabinet and filing system is of value to a career man.

Zeal

AN important key to success is zest and drive, which successful men and women universally have and put into their work.

Journalists were amazed by the tremendous drive and zeal which Jawaharlal Nehru poured into his job. He rose early in the morning and went fast and hard all day until late night.

The above description of the late Prime Minister work-day indicates the zest with which he tackled his responsibilities and the drive he put into

his accomplishment. This is the key to the success of many people.

Your time is your life. The use of time that naturally follows from it is a success key that has been or is being used by nearly every great man of our time. Peep into his life and you see the secret.

"We are all millionaires in time." We have just as much time as any big successes of the world. Each of us, throughout each day, has just as much time as Einstein had.

How do we use time? You can only waste the present moment. You cannot waste tomorrow. It is kept fresh and waiting for you. You can turn over a new leaf every hour if you choose.

You can learn to use time to advantage. Realising the value of time, learn to get up early and get right up when you wake up, without lingering or lazing in bed.

Scheduling your time throughout each day, week and month comes into play. You need not be a schedule slave, but you do need to *have* a schedule.

You learn, as other successful people do, to guard your time intelligently and zealously. You will set your mind to use time in an organized manner. Through this very means, you will be enabled not only to accomplish your goals in career and personal spheres.

Do not give up. Stick on. Go on. In most things success depends on knowing how long it takes to succeed.

Temptations

YOU must put up or shut up. If you really want success, you must be

willing to pay the price. You must learn to say "no" to yourself. You must learn to turn down invitations, social visits, TV, cards, movies, and other interruptions when these interfere with accomplishment of your goal. Temptations come galore but you must resist them. While you are on the way up, you must beware of distractions.

Discipline yourself to do the hard jobs first. The unpleasant job that is put off is likely never to get done. Roll up your sleeves, and do it first. Those who procrastinate are usually putting off something unpleasant or difficult. They putter over little, inconsequential, easy things so they will not have to face what they subconsciously regard as the big obstacle.

The best way to master this problem is to put the jobs you dislike at the top of each day's schedule. Then, if you roll up your sleeves and wade into them, you will soon be too busy to worry about the difficulty.

Keep driving yourself until work has become a habit that is stronger than your human inclination to loaf. A proverb says, "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." Self-control and self-discipline are vital keys to real success in any area of life.

You must discipline yourself to get started in the morning. You must discipline yourself to get at your work and really produce instead of puttering with trivials. You must discipline yourself to avoid distractions and to use your time and energy where they will count.

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Wits in Court

THI layman hardly associates law courts with humour. He thinks that lawyers and judges in their black coats are sedate and sombre people who interpret law in dry and unintelligible language. They do!

But there is another side to it also. They (some at least) have a sense of humour. Others display flashes of wit and repartee, provoking laughter and breaking the monotony of proceedings.

Law courts have been the battle scene for brilliant verbal sallies.

Lord Ashburton was once held up to ridicule by another senior barrister—Lord Mansfield. Commenting on a particular interpretation of law, the

latter said in sheer anger, "If that be law, I shall go home and burn my books."

"Sir, it would be better", rejoined Ashburton, "if you went home and read them!"

Abraham Lincoln practised as a lawyer briefly before entering politics. He was questioning a hostile witness named John Cass. Suddenly, Lincoln smiled charmingly and shot, "Have you ever been called Jack?"

Max Sterner, another distinguished barrister, did not like the ruling a judge made on a technical point. When the lawyer's contention was ruled out time and again, he began picking his papers and brief. The judge noticing this asked, "Sir, does it mean you are showing contempt for this

court?"

"No" replied the lawyer. "I am trying to conceal it."

A man with a previous record had been convicted on circumstantial evidence. Later it was discovered that he had been in prison at the time the crime was committed. The lawyer asked him why he had not told at that time. The prisoner replied, "I thought it would prejudice the judge against me."

The judge unable to bear the noise in the court room, announced loudly, "Silence, silence", and then added, "half a dozen men have already been convicted without the court being able to hear a word of the testimony."

"Have you ever done any good work in life", asked the

judge of a hardened criminal. The latter politely answered, "Yes. My Lord. I have kept three to four policemen regularly employed for years."

The judge looked at the person in the court and asked him, "Are you the defence attorney?", "No", replied the man. "I have a lawyer to defend me. I am the man who committed the crime."

Another person had been invited to become a member of the jury. He came and said to the judge "I cannot act on the jury. One looks at that man convinces me that he is guilty."

"Keep quiet", said the judge. "He is the district attorney."

How Well have You Read CM?

The following questions are based on the August '99 issue of *The Competition Master*. They will help you revise current affairs. If you do not know certain answers, do make an effort to locate them in our last issue.

1 For the week ending July 4, 1999, the annual rate of inflation touched a record 17-year low. What was the rate of inflation recorded for the week?

- a) 1.75 b) 2
c) 2.5 d) 2.60

2 Who is the world's richest person according to Forbes magazine?

- a) Azim Premji b) Bill Gates
c) Swaraj Paul
d) Queen of England

3 Name the city which will be Germany's new capital from September 6, 1999.

- a) Berlin b) Bonn
c) Cologne d) Hamburg

4 What is Jini?

- a) A computer programme
b) A new brand of tea
c) A brand of writing instrument
d) A networking technology

5 Which city is to host the Olympics in 2004?

- a) Berlin b) Athens
c) Sydney d) Tokyo

6 Who among the following is the author of the book, "A Thousand Suns"?

- a) Dominique Lapierre
b) Joan Collins
c) Rajkamal Jha d) Vikram Seth

7 Name the capital of Honduras.

- a) Posoltega b) Honduras city
c) Pasadena d) Telucigalpa

8 Where was the UN Climate Conference held in November, 1998?

- a) Athens b) Washington
c) Buenos Aires d) Geneva

9 The seventh refinery of the Indian Oil Corporation was dedicated to the nation on June 24, 1999. Where is it

located?

- a) Gwalior b) Mumbai
c) Hyderabad d) Panipat

10 Which of the following days has been designated as 'Kashmir Day' as a tribute to all those who made the supreme sacrifice for the country?

- a) May 23 b) June 12
c) June 23 d) June 26

11 The Supreme Court has allowed raising of the Narmada dam to a level of how many metres?

- a) 80.5 metres b) 55 metres
c) 86.5 metres d) 90 metres

12 The Turtuk sector has been named after a brave captain of the Indian army. Name the person.

- a) Hangetuddin b) Vikram Ojha
c) P.K. Sharma d) Rajinder Singh

13 What is the total number of newspapers and periodicals in the country?

- a) 38,140 b) 39,149
c) 40,700 d) 42,871

14 Which is the oldest newspaper in India?

- a) The Times of India
b) The Statesman
c) Anand Bazar Patrika
d) Bombay Samachar

15 NASA plans to fly an airplane on Mars to mark the 100th anniversary of the first flight of Wright brothers. In which year is the flight scheduled?

- a) 2001 b) 2002
c) 2003 d) 2004

16 To which country does the Miss World '99 belong?

- a) Botswana b) Israel
c) South Africa d) Switzerland

17 Name the winner of the Jnanpith Award this year.

- a) Mahasweta Devi
b) Ravi Shankar c) Jaya Bachchan
d) Girish Karnad

18 The chairman of Ranbaxy Industries, who died recently was

- a) Parvinder Singh
b) Onkar Singh c) Rajinder Singh
d) Paramjeet Singh

19 Name the actress who has been appointed goodwill ambassador by the UN Population Fund for India?

- a) Raveena Tandon
b) Juhi Chawla c) Jaya Bachchan
d) Shabana Azmi

20 Which of the following cities has been awarded the Winter Olympics 2006?

- a) Sion b) Geneva
c) Turin d) Montreal

21 Who was the top scorer in the Cricket World Cup '99?

- a) Steve Waugh b) Rahul Dravid
c) Sourav Ganguly
d) Sachin Tendulkar

22 East Timor, which went to the polls recently to decide about autonomy, is a province in which of the following countries?

- a) Indonesia b) Malaysia
c) Thailand d) Singapore

23 What is the name of the new hybrid car launched by Honda recently, which has both a petrol engine and an electric motor?

- a) Prius b) Saviour
c) Icarus d) Insight

24 Which of the following has launched India's first index fund?

- a) ICICI b) SBI
c) IDBI d) HDFC

25 Where was the summit of the G-8 countries held in June, '99?

- a) Berlin b) Bonn
c) Cologne d) Geneva

(Answers will appear in our October issue.)

(Answers to August 1999 Quiz)

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1 d | 2 c | 3 b | 4 b |
| 5 c | 6 a | 7 d | 8 c |
| 9 a | 10 c | 11 b | 12 c |
| 13 b | 14 d | 15 a | 16 d |
| 17 d | 18 c | 19 b | 20 b |
| 21 d | 22 a | 23 b | 24 a |

General Awareness

The questions given below were set in Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (Preliminary) examination held on the 4th April, 1999.

We are grateful to Shri G. Mahender Reddy of Hyderabad for sending these questions

- Casein is the protein present in:
(a) blood (b) plasma (c) urine (d) milk
- Which one of the following is a water soluble vitamin?
(a) Vitamin D (b) Vitamin B
(c) Vitamin A (d) Vitamin C
- Which one of the following is not a function of liver?
(a) Production of insulin
(b) Breakdown of red blood cells
(c) Synthesis of glycogen (d) Production of bile
- Pancreas is:
(a) an endocrine gland (b) an exocrine gland
(c) both exocrine and endocrine
(d) None of these
- Human heart is:
(a) neurogenic (b) myogenic
(c) both neurogenic and myogenic
(d) None of these
- Source of energy of the sun is:
(a) artificial radioactivity (b) nuclear fission
(c) nuclear fusion (d) natural radioactivity
- Optical fibres used in communication are developed/
based on the phenomenon of.
(a) refraction of light (b) diffraction of light
(c) interference of light
(d) total internal reflection of light
- Sky appears blue due to:
(a) reflection of light in blue region
(b) transmission of light in blue region
(c) scattering of light in blue region
(d) absorption of light in other colours
- Microwave ovens work on the principle of:
(a) absorption of microwaves by water
(b) absorption of microwaves by the vessel used for cooking
(c) reflection of the microwaves by the food
(d) None of the above
- The chief raw material for the fabrication of paper is:
(a) jute (b) bamboo
(c) cotton (d) turpentine
- An example of molecular crystal is:
(a) diamond (b) ice
(c) sodium chloride (d) gold

- Einstein got his Nobel Prize due to his work on:
(a) photoelectric effect (b) relativity
(c) Bose-Einstein statistics (d) Brownian motion
- Which of the following is the strongest force?
(a) Atomic force (b) Gravitational forces
(c) Electromagnetic forces (d) Nuclear forces
- Who has announced that 1999 would be the "Year of Jawans" for creating a climate of change within the army to meet the challenges of the future?
(a) George Fernandes (b) Lal Krishan Advani
(c) Atal Behari Vajpayee (d) General V.P. Malik
- Which is the birth-place of Amartya Kumar Sen?
(a) Mohan Bagh (b) Lumbini Garden
(c) Lal Bagh (d) Shanti Nivasam
- For which subject did Amartya Kumar Sen receive the prestigious Nobel Prize?
(a) Moral Science (b) Political Science
(c) Philosophy (d) Economics
- The only condition on which India wants to subscribe to the CTBT is:
(a) neutralisation of hydrogen bombs
(b) banning of chemical weapons
(c) lifting of sanctions
(d) total nuclear disarmament
- Which one of the following is the least populated State in India?
(a) Sikkim (b) Goa
(c) Meghalaya (d) Arunachal Pradesh
- Which one amongst the following was awarded Bharat Ratna in 1998?
(a) Dr U.R. Rao (b) Dr Raja Ramanna
(c) Dr G. Padmanabhan (d) Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- Who is the present Governor of Reserve Bank of India?
(a) Prof Madhu Dandavate (b) M.S. Ahluwalia
(c) C. Rangarajan (d) Dr Bimbal Jalan
- Sarkaria Commission was set up for reviewing the relations between:
(a) The Prime Minister and the President
(b) Legislature and Executive
(c) Executive and the Judiciary
(d) Centre and the States
- When there is no majority party in the State Legislative Assembly, the principal consideration governing the choice of the Chief Minister by the Governor of the State is the :
(a) ability of the person who is most likely to command a stable majority
(b) largest political party in the Legislative Assembly

- (c) the combination of several parties as a unit
(d) the loyalty and support of the party members to their respective party programme
23. Judicial remedy whereby the State inquires into the legality of detaining a person is better known as:
(a) Habeas Corpus (b) Certiorari
(c) Mandamus (d) Quo Warranto
24. When an advance grant is made by the Parliament, pending the regular passage of the Budget, it is called:
(a) Vote on account (b) Token grant
(c) Supplementary grant (d) Vote on credit
25. The principles concerning the provisions of the grants-in-aid to the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India are recommended by the:
(a) Finance Commission (b) Planning Commission
(c) National Development Council
(d) Administrative Reforms Commission
26. Which State government is going ahead alone without Central government's help in the power sector?
(a) Maharashtra (b) Karnataka
(c) Jammu and Kashmir (d) Andhra Pradesh
27. NABARD helps rural development by:
(a) giving direct loans to farmers
(b) providing refinance facility
(c) assisting Gram Panchayats
(d) assisting Zilla Parishads
28. Agricultural commodities prices in India are fixed by.
(a) Central government (b) State government
(c) Agricultural Produce Marketing Boards
(d) Agricultural Prices Commission
29. Deficit Finance means:
(a) relying on foreign aid (b) spending by borrowing
(c) not spending enough to ensure development
(d) spending in excess of revenue
30. Tax-free villages granted to the learned Brahmanas in ancient India were known as:
(a) Agrahara (b) Magastana
(c) Agraseni (d) Bhukti
31. Who among the following foreign travellers visited India during the seventh century A.D.?
(a) Alberuni (b) Fa-hien
(c) Hieun-tsang (d) Suleman
32. The primary source for Balban's opinions on sovereignty and government is:
(a) I-Barni (b) I-sami
(c) Ibn Batuta (d) Minhaf-us-siraf
33. Which one of the following ruling lines of the Marathas defeated Bajirao II?
(a) Scindia (b) Holkar
(c) Bhonsle (d) Gaikwar
34. 'Mansab' in the Mansabdari System indicated:
(a) an office in the Mughal bureaucracy
(b) status and income of the holder
(c) work of the holder in the office
(d) a particular military rank
35. The author of *Nil Darpan* is:
(a) Ananda Mohan Ghose (b) Dina Bandhu Mitra
(c) Sharat Chandra Chatterjee (d) Munshi Premchand
36. Deindustrialisation and the growth of poverty of India under the British rule were refuted in the writings of:
(a) Bolanath Chandra (b) Justice Ranade
(c) Vera Anstey (d) Sir Francis Younghusband
37. Who renounced his Knighthood as a protest against the Jallianwala Bagh tragedy?
(a) Mahatma Gandhi (b) Motilal Nehru
(c) Rabindra Nath Tagore (d) C.R. Das
38. Of the following geographical regions of India which is not a plateau region?
(a) Malwa (b) Dharwad
(c) Konkan (d) Meghalaya
39. Weather instrument to measure wind speed is:
(a) Wind Vane (b) Ceilometer
(c) Clinometer (d) Anemometer
40. Sea of Tranquillity is located in:
(a) Pacific Ocean (b) Atlantic Ocean
(c) Indian Ocean (d) None of the Oceans
41. The rain forest of Amazon basin is called:
(a) Campos (b) Selvas (c) Pampas
(d) Llanos
42. The largest producer of cocoa in the world is:
(a) Ghana (b) Ivory Coast (c) Nigeria (d) Brazil
43. The Dhaulagiri peak is located in:
(a) Kashmir (b) Nepal
(c) Tibet-Nepal (d) Sinkiang-Tibet
44. One of the good examples for inter-State irrigation projects in India is:
(a) Idukki (b) Lower Sileru
(c) Gandak (d) Sabaragiri
45. Which one of the following is the largest single industry in India?
(a) Iron and Steel (b) Textiles
(c) Fertilizers (d) Cement
46. Tank irrigation is extensively practised in South India. In which pair of the following States of South India is this irrigation relatively more common?
(a) Karnataka and Maharashtra
(b) Tamil Nadu and Karnataka
(c) Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh
(d) Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra
47. The Krishna river separates in Andhra Pradesh:
(a) the Nalgonda region from the Krishna region
(b) the Krishna region from the Guntur region
(c) the Guntur region from the Kurnool region
(d) the Kurnool region from the Krishna region
48. The Semangs are tribal people who live in:
(a) Amazon Basin (b) Zaire Basin
(c) Indonesia (d) Malaysia
49. The highest peaks of the Himalayas are found in:
(a) Himachal (b) Siwalik (c) Nepal (d) Purvanchal
50. The St Lawrence river in North America begins at the

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

eastern end of the lake

- (a) Michigan (b) Erie
(c) Ontario (d) Superior

51 The territory of Alaska became a United States possession in 1867 when the American government purchased it from

- (a) Canada (b) Japan (c) Russia (d) Greenland

52 Name the only Indian Prime Minister who ever faced the Parliament during his tenure

- (a) Choudhary Charan Singh
(b) Atal Behari Vajpayee (c) Chandrasekharendra Prasad
(d) Vishwanath Pratap Singh

53 The source of political power in India lies with the

- (a) Constitution (b) Parliament
(c) People (d) President

54 A famous agricultural scientist who has been awarded a Nobel Peace Prize is

- (a) H.G. Khormi (b) M.S. Swaminathan
(c) Norman Borlaug (d) R.N. Mishra

55 Central Tobacco Research Institute is located at

- (a) Bhopal (b) Hyderabad
(c) Rajahmundry (d) Coimbatore

56 The branch of botany which involves the study of the life cycle of protoplasts is

- (a) Horticulture (b) Agriculture
(c) Tissue culture (d) Plant culture

57 From which part of the soft plant material is the following extracted?

- (a) Dry flower buds (b) Dry calyx
(c) Stigma (d) Dry petals

58 Who is the Chairman of the 11th Finance Commission?

- (a) K.C. Pant (b) M.S. Ahluwalia
(c) A.N. Khosro (d) None of these

59 The name of the Chinese President is

- (a) Jiang Zemin (b) Wang Bing
(c) Chi Haotian (d) Deng Xiaoping

60 Who is the outstanding women environmentalist in India today?

- (a) Medha Patkar (b) Mamata Banerjee
(c) Sarojini Mahishi (d) Marguerite Alva

61 The General Assembly of the UN consists of

- (a) 185 members (b) 175 members
(c) 195 members (d) 190 members

62 The Quit India call was given in

- (a) 1942 (b) 1944 (c) 1947 (d) 1957

63 India today is published from

- (a) Bombay (b) Calcutta (c) Madras (d) Delhi

64 The Capital of Somalia is

- (a) Mogadishu (b) Johannesburg
(c) Ankara (d) Durban

65 Sri Krishna Commission was appointed to enquire into the riots in

- (a) Delhi (b) Bombay (c) Calcutta (d) Madras

66 Original name of Dilip Kumar is

- (a) Yusuf Khan (b) Hanif Khan
(c) Vasudha (d) Ranvir Singh

67 India made its first atomic explosion in

- (a) 1951 (b) 1961 (c) 1974 (d) 1984

68 Total strength of Lok Sabha is

- (a) 150 (b) 545 (c) 450 (d) 600

69 In Myanmar the pro-democracy leader Ms Aung San Suu Kyi is the leader of the

- (a) National Congress for Democracy
(b) National League
(c) National League for Democracy
(d) League for Democracy

70 Which one of the following countries is not a member of the G-15?

- (a) Chile (b) Kenya (c) Nigeria (d) Pakistan

71 Who is the President of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)?

- (a) Venkayya Naidu (b) Kishore Chandra
(c) Atal Behari Vajpayee (d) Murli Manohar Joshi

72 Who was the Prime Minister of India when India became independent?

- (a) Churchill (b) Attlee
(c) Chamberlain (d) Wilson

73 Asoka's victory over Kalinga is mentioned in

- (a) Rock Edict XIII (b) Rock Edict II
(c) Separate Kalinga Edict (d) Ashoka's inscription

74 Who was the founder of the Maurya Dynasty?

- (a) Chandragupta Maurya (b) Asoka
(c) Bindusara (d) Shatruapata

75 Who among the following is the author of 'Day after Day'?

- (a) Agnes Wren (b) Kulluk Chatterjee
(c) Visarutia (d) Jyoti Chatterjee

ANSWERS

- 1 (d) 2 (b) 3 (a) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6 (d)
7 (d) 8 (c)
9 (d) Microwaves are electromagnetic radiation with wavelengths ranging from very short radio waves almost to the infrared region i.e. wavelengths from 30 cm to 1 mm
10 (d) 11 (c) 12 (a) 13 (b) 14 (d) 15 (d)
16 (d) 17 (d) 18 (a) 19 (d) 20 (d) 21 (d)
22 (b) 23 (a) 24 (a) 25 (a) 26 (d) 27 (b)
28 (a) 29 (b) 30 (a) 31 (c) 32 (a) 33 (b)
34 (a) 35 (b) 36 (c) 37 (c) 38 (d) 39 (d)
40 (d) 41 (b) 42 (a) 43 (b)
44 (c) Bihar & UP 45 (a) 46 (c) 47 (d) 48 (d)
49 (c) 50 (c) 51 (c) 52 (a) 53 (c)
54 (c) He won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1970. He was one of those who laid the groundwork of the Green Revolution
55 (c) In Andhra Pradesh
56 (c) 57 (c) 58 (c) 59 (a) 60 (a) 61 (a)
62 (a) 63 (d) 64 (a) 65 (b) 66 (a) 67 (c)
68 (b) 69 (c)
70 (d) G-15 is a group of 16 developing countries viz. India, Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Venezuela and Zimbabwe
71 (b) 72 (b) 73 (a) 74 (a) 75 (d)

Quantitative Aptitude

1. The unit's digit of the number 1999^{1999} is:
(a) 1 (b) 3 (c) 7 (d) 9
2. A box contains Rs 280 made up of 170 coins, some of which are 50-paise coins and the other are 2-rupee coins. The number of 2-rupee coins in the box are:
(a) 136 (b) 130 (c) 120 (d) 112
3. The sum of two numbers is 56. 30% of one of them is equal to 40% of the other. The smaller number is:
(a) 20 (b) 24 (c) 25 (d) 27
4. Five years ago the father was twice as old as his son. The sum of their present ages is 88 years. The present age of the father is:
(a) 53 years (b) 55 years (c) 57 years (d) 60 years
5. A man rows 1 km in upstream in 20 minutes and 1 km in downstream in 15 minutes. The speed of the current is:
(a) .4 km/hour (b) .3 km/hour
(c) .5 km/hour (d) 6 km/hour
6. The difference of the squares of two consecutive positive integers is 47. The smaller of the integers is:
(a) 22 (b) 23 (c) 24 (d) 25
7. The simplified value of $1.142857 \times 1.2 + 1.45$ is
(a) 5 (b) 2 (c) 1 (d) .5
8. The G.C.M. of a pair of numbers is 10 and their sum is 150. The number of such pairs is:
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5
9. 35% of 80 is 25% of x. Then x is:
(a) 112 (b) 96 (c) 120 (d) 124
10. If 10 apples and 8 mangoes cost Rs 69.00; and 16 apples and 4 mangoes cost Rs. 73.00, the price of an apple is:
(a) Rs 3.00 (b) Rs 3.20 (c) Rs 3.40 (d) Rs 3.50
11. In a glass of mixture, water and alcohol are in the ratio 2 : 5. If 6 litres of water be poured into the glass the ratio becomes 1 : 1. The amount of alcohol in the glass is:
(a) 10 litres (b) 15 litres
(c) 20 litres (d) 30 litres
12. The greatest number that divides 372, 618 and 987 leaving in each case the same remainder is:
(a) 123 (b) 124 (c) 206 (d) 329
13. When 2^{100} is divided by 10, the remainder is:
(a) 0 (b) 2 (c) 4 (d) 6
14. The number 5^*2785 is divisible by 11. The missing digit (*) is:
(a) 0 (b) 1 (c) 2 (d) 3
15. The price of sugar first increases by 20% and then decreases by 10%. The net change in the price will be:
(a) 10% increase (b) 8% increase
(c) 5% increase (d) no change
16. In an election contested by two candidates, the winner gets 55% of votes and wins by 12 votes. The total number of votes cast in the election was:
(a) 80 (b) 120 (c) 140 (d) 150
17. A tap can fill a tank in 15 minutes and another tap can empty it in 20 minutes. Both the taps are opened together when the tank is already $\frac{1}{2}$ full. The tank will be filled completely in:
(a) 24 mins (b) 30 mins (c) 36 mins (d) 48 mins
18. In an examination 35% students fail in Mathematics and 30% fail in English. 20% of the students failed in both the subjects. If 275 students pass in both the subjects, the number of students participating in the examination of the above two subjects is:
(a) 55 (b) 400 (c) 500 (d) 555
19. 10% of 25% of the population of a village is 50. The population of the village is:
(a) 2000 (b) 800 (c) 400 (d) 500
20. Gold and copper are 19 times and 9 times heavier than water respectively. All alloy of gold and copper is prepared such that it is 15 times heavier than water. The proportion of gold and copper is:
(a) 2 : 3 (b) 3 : 2 (c) 3 : 4 (d) 4 : 3
21. A man has to pay income tax at the rate of 20% of the excess annual income over Rs 60,000. Shyamal babu received Rs 1,32,000 as his annual income deducting income tax. His actual annual income is:
(a) Rs 1,40,000 (b) Rs 1,44,000
(c) Rs 1,50,000 (d) Rs 1,60,000
22. The least number of 4 digits, divisible by 2, 3 and 5 is:
(a) 1010 (b) 1020 (c) 1050 (d) 1080
23. The greatest value of the fractions $\frac{2}{5}, \frac{3}{7}, \frac{4}{9}, \frac{5}{11}$ is:
(a) $\frac{2}{5}$ (b) $\frac{3}{7}$ (c) $\frac{4}{9}$ (d) $\frac{5}{11}$
24. If the speed of a man is 2 m/sec, his speed per hour will be:
(a) 36 km (b) 72 km (c) 7.2 km (d) 3.6 km
25. The digits of the integral part of the square root of 123456789 is:
(a) 4 (b) 5 (c) 6 (d) 7
26. The ratio of two numbers is 2 : 5 and their G.C.M. is 10. The L.C.M. of the numbers is:
(a) 90 (b) 100 (c) 120 (d) 150

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

27. 125 fruits are distributed among 40 boys and girls so that each boy gets 3 and each girl gets 4 fruits. The number of boys is:

- (a) 32 (b) 34 (c) 35 (d) 36

28. A sum of Rs 1200 invested at the rate of 12% per annum simple interest in 12 years will amount to.

- (a) Rs 1728 (b) Rs 2928 (c) Rs 1828 (d) Rs 3028

29. P_1 men can do a piece of work, working h_1 hours per day in d_1 days. The number of days in which P_2 men, working h_2 hours per day, can complete the same work in.

- (a) $\frac{P_1 d_1 h_1}{P_2 h_2}$ days (b) $\frac{h_1 h_2 d_1}{P_1 h_1}$ days

- (c) $\frac{P_1 h_2 d_1}{P_2 h_1}$ days (d) $\frac{P_2 h_1 d_1}{P_1 h_2}$ days

30. The greatest factor of the product of any four consecutive integral numbers, in all cases, is:

- (a) 8 (b) 12 (c) 18 (d) 24

31. Kamal sold an article at $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of its marked price and suffered a loss of 20%. The ratio of marked price is to cost price is:

- (a) 6 : 5 (b) 5 : 6 (c) 3 : 2 (d) 5 : 3

32. The price of cloth is increased by 10% every year. If the present price of a piece of cloth is Rs 1,210, its price two years ago was

- (a) Rs 968 (b) Rs 1,089 (c) Rs 1,010 (d) Rs 1,000

33. The prime number among the following is:

- (a) 111 (b) 945 (c) 651 (d) 523

34. Ram has three times as much money as Gopesh. If Ram has Rs 360 more than Gopesh, Ram's money is:

- (a) Rs 4.80 (b) Rs 5.40 (c) Rs 9 (d) Rs 10.80

35. A student secures an average of 55 marks in English and Bengali, an average of 60 marks in Bengali and Hindi and an average of 53 marks in Hindi and English. His average of marks in the three subjects is.

- (a) 55 (b) 56 (c) 57 (d) 58

36. The sum of all multiples of 8 lying between 100 and 150 is:

- (a) 744 (b) 840 (c) 896 (d) 1092

37. The sum of the squares of two numbers is 261 and the ratio of the numbers is 2 : 5. The greater of the numbers is:

- (a) 15 (b) 20 (c) 25 (d) 30

38. The positive integer nearest to 400 and divisible by 2, 3, 4 and 5 is:

- (a) 410 (b) 420 (c) 380 (d) 360

39. The length of a rectangular plot is 4 times its breadth. The perimeter of the plot is 160 m. The area of the plot is:

- (a) 1000 sq m (b) 1024 sq m

- (c) 1080 sq m (d) 1120 sq m

40. A sum of money doubles itself in 8 years at simple interest. In how many years it will treble itself at the same rate of interest?

- (a) 12 years (b) 15 years (c) 16 years (d) 20 years

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (d) Unit's digit in 9999^{1999} = Unit's digit in 9^{1999}

9^2 gives unit's digit 1

$\therefore 9^{1998}$ = $(9^2)^{999}$ gives unit's digit 1

$\therefore 9^{1999}$ gives unit's digit = $1 \times 9 = 9$

2. (b) Let the no. of 2-rupee coins be x

$$\text{A.T.S } 2x + (170 - x) \times \frac{50}{100} = 280 \Rightarrow x = 130$$

3. (b) Let the smaller no. be x

$$\text{A.T.S. } 40\% \text{ of } x = 30\% \text{ of } (56 - x) \Rightarrow x = 24$$

4. (c) Let father's present age be x yrs

$\therefore$ son's present age = $88 - x$ yrs.

$$\text{A.T.S. } x - 5 = 2(88 - x - 5) \Rightarrow x = 57$$

5. (c) Let the speed of rowing in still water be x km/hr and that of current be y km/hr

Downstream speed = $x + y$, speed upstream = $x - y$

$$D = S \times t \quad (x + y) \frac{15}{60} = 1 \Rightarrow x + y = 4 \quad \dots (i)$$

$$(x - y) \frac{20}{60} = 1 \Rightarrow x - y = 3 \quad \dots (ii)$$

Solving (i) and (ii) $y = .5$

6. (b) $(x + 1)^2 - x^2 = 47 \Rightarrow x = 23$ $a^2 - b^2 = (a - b)(a + b)$

7. (c) $1 \ 142857 \times 1 \ 2 + 1.45$

$$= 1 \frac{142857}{999999} \times 1 \frac{27}{99} + 1 \frac{45}{99} = \frac{1142856}{999999} \times \frac{126}{99} \times \frac{99}{144} = 1$$

8. (c) G.C.M. = 10 Let the nos. be 10x and 10y

$$10x + 10y = 150 \Rightarrow x + y = 15$$

$15 = 1 + 14$ or $2 + 13$ or $4 + 11$ or $7 + 8$

x and y can take values 1 & 14 i.e. $x = 1$, $y = 14$

2 & 13; 4 & 11; 7 and 8 respectively

x and y should be coprime

$\therefore$ No. of such pairs = 4

9. (a) 25% of x = 35% of 80 $\Rightarrow \frac{25}{100} \times x = \frac{35}{100} \times 80 \Rightarrow x = 112$

10. (d) Let the price of an apple be Rs x and that of a mango be Rs y

$$10x + 8y = 69 \quad \dots (i)$$

$$16x + 4y = 73 \quad \dots (ii)$$

Solving (i) & (ii), we get $x = \text{Rs } 3.50$

11. (a) Let the total quantity of mixture be x l

$$\text{Amount of alcohol} = \frac{5}{7} \times l, \text{ water} = \frac{2}{7} \times l$$

$$\text{A.T.S. } \frac{\frac{5}{7}x}{\frac{2}{7}x + 6} = \frac{1}{1} \Rightarrow x = 14$$

$$\therefore \text{Amount of alcohol in the mixture} = \frac{5}{7} \times 14 = 10$$

12. (a) $\frac{618}{246} \quad \frac{987}{369} \quad \frac{987}{615}$ Reqd no. = HCF of 246, 369 and 615 = 123

13. (d) $2^{100} = (2^4)^{25} = 16^{25}$

The digit in unit's = $(16 \times 16 \dots 25 \text{ times})$ place will be 6

14. (d) $\therefore$ when 2^{100} is divided by 10, R = 6

15. (b) Let the original price be Rs x

$$\text{Price after two changes} = x \times \frac{120}{100} \times \frac{90}{100} = \frac{108}{100}x$$

$$\text{Net increase} = \frac{108}{100}x - x = \frac{8}{100}x$$

$$\text{Increase\%} = \frac{8}{100} \times \frac{100}{x} = 8$$

16 (b) $(55\% - 45\%) \text{ of } x = 12 \Rightarrow 10\% \text{ of } x = 12 \quad x = 120$

17 (b) Work done by both pipes in 1 min = $\frac{1}{15} - \frac{1}{20} = \frac{1}{60}$

$\therefore$ When both pipes are opened the tank will be filled in 60 min

$\therefore$ When half tank is already filled, the tank will be filled completely in 30 min

18 (c) Students failed in Maths = 35%

$$n(A \cup B) = n(A) + n(B) - n(A \cap B)$$

$$= 35\% + 30\% - 20\% = 45\%$$

Students failed in atleast one of the two subjects = 45%

$\therefore$ Students passed in both subjects = $(100 - 45)\% = 55\%$

Let the total students be x

$$55\% \text{ of } x = 275 \Rightarrow x = 500$$

19 (a) $10\% \text{ of } 25\% \text{ of } x = 50 \Rightarrow \frac{10}{100} \times \frac{25}{100} x = 50 \Rightarrow x = 2000$

20 (b)

Gold	Copper
19	9
15	
6	4

Gold : Copper = $6 : 4 = 3 : 2$

21 (c) Let the actual annual income be Rs x

$$x - (x - 60000) \frac{20}{100} = 132000 \Rightarrow x = 150000$$

22 (b) LCM of 2, 3, 5 = 30

Least no. of four digits = 1000

When 1000 is divided by 30, remainder = 10

$$\text{Reqd no.} = 1000 + (30 - 10) = 1020$$

23 (d)

24 (c) Speed in km/hr = $2 \times \frac{18}{5} = 7.2$

25 (b) $1\overline{23}45\overline{67}89$

No. of digits of integral part of the square root of 123456789 = No. of bars = 5

26 (b) G.C.M. = 10, Ratio of nos. = 2 : 5

$$\therefore \text{Nos. are } 20, 50 \therefore \text{LCM} = 100$$

27 (c) Let the no. of boys be x $\therefore$ Girls = $40 - x$

$$\therefore 3x + (40 - x)4 = 125 \Rightarrow x = 35$$

28. (b) $SI = \frac{PRT}{100} = \frac{1200 \times 12 \times 12}{100} = 1728$

$$A = P + I = 1200 + 1728 = 2928$$

29. (a)

30. (d) Let the four nos. be 1, 2, 3, 4 Product = 24

$$\text{Greatest factor} = 24$$

31. (a) Let C.P. = Rs y, M.P. = Rs x, S.P. = $\frac{2}{3}x$

$$\text{Loss} = 20\% \quad S.P. = \frac{80}{100} \times y$$

$$\therefore \frac{2}{3}x = \frac{80}{100}y \Rightarrow x : y = 6 : 5$$

32. (d) $1,210 = x(1 + \frac{10}{100})^2 \Rightarrow x = \text{Rs } 1000$

33 (d) A prime no. is divisible by 1 or itself It is not divisible by any other no

$$111, 651, 945 \text{ are divisible by } 3 \quad \text{Prime no.} = 523$$

34. (b) Let Gopesh's money be Rs x $\therefore$ Ram's money = Rs 3x

$$\text{A.T.S. } 3x - x = 360 \Rightarrow x = 180 \therefore 3x = 540$$

35. (b) Total marks in English and Bengali = $55 \times 2 = 110$

$$\text{Total marks in Bengali and Hindi} = 60 \times 2 = 120$$

$$\text{Total marks in Hindi and English} = 53 \times 2 = 106$$

$$\therefore 2(\text{Total marks in Hindi} + \text{English} + \text{Bengali}) = 110 + 120 + 106 = 336$$

$$\therefore \text{Average marks in three subjects} = (\frac{336}{2}) + 3 = 56$$

36 (a) Multiples of 8 between 100 and 150 are 104, 112, ..., 144.

Terms are in A.P.

$$a = 104, d = 112 - 104 = 8 \quad tn = 144$$

$$tn = a + (n - 1)d \quad n = \text{no. of terms}$$

$$144 = 104 + (n - 1)8 \Rightarrow n = 6$$

$$\text{Reqd sum } S = \frac{n}{2}(a + l) \quad \begin{array}{l} a = \text{First term} \\ l = \text{Last Term} \end{array}$$

$$= \frac{6}{2}(104 + 144) = 744$$

37. (a) $(5x)^2 + (2x)^2 = 261 \Rightarrow 29x^2 = 261 \Rightarrow x^2 = 9 \Rightarrow x = 3$

$$\text{Greater no.} = 5x = 5 \times 3 = 15$$

38. (b) L.C.M. of 2, 3, 4, 5 = 60

$$\text{When } 400 \text{ is divided by } 60, R = 40$$

$$\text{No. nearest to } 400 \text{ and divisible by } 2, 3, 4, 5$$

$$= 400 + (60 - 40) = 420$$

39. (b) Let B = x $\therefore$ L = 4x, P = $2(L + B) = 160$

$$2(4x + x) = 160 \Rightarrow x = 16, L = 4 \times 16 = 64$$

$$\text{Area of rect. plot} = L \times B = 64 \times 16 = 1024 \text{ sq m}$$

40. (c) Let P = Rs 100, A = Rs 200 $\therefore$ S.I. = 100,

$$R = \frac{S.I. \times 100}{P \times T} \quad R = \frac{100 \times 100}{100 \times 8} = \frac{25}{2}$$

$$T = \frac{200 \times 100}{100} \times \frac{2}{25} = 16$$

English Language

Question paper of Combined Defence Services Exam held in May 1998

USAGE

Spotting Errors (Items 1 to 15)

Directions:

(i) In this Section a number of sentences are given. The sentences are in three separate parts and each one is labelled (a), (b), (c). Read each sentence to find out whether there is an error in any part. No sentence has more than one error. When you find an error in any one of the parts (a, b or c), indicate your response on the separate Answer Sheet at the appropriate space. You may feel that there is no error in a sentence. In that case letter 'd' will signify a 'No error' response.

(ii) You are to indicate only one response for each item in your Answer Sheet. (If you indicate more than one response, your answer will be considered wrong). Errors may be in grammar, word usage or idioms. There may be a word missing or there may be a word which should be removed.

(iii) You are not required to correct the error. You are required only to indicate your response on the Answer Sheet. Examples P and Q have been solved for you.

P. The young child(a) singed(b) a very sweet song.(c) No error.(d)

Q. We worked(a) very hard(b) throughout the season.(c) No error.(d)

Explanation: In item P, the word 'singed' is wrong. The letter under this part is 'b'; so 'b' is the correct answer. Similarly, for item Q, 'd' is the correct answer, as the sentence does not contain any error.

Now attempt items 1 to 15.

1. He went to England to work as a doctor,(a) but returned back(b) as he could not endure the weather there.(c) No error.(d)

2. The meeting, scheduled to be held(a) between 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.(b) was postponed suddenly.(c) No error.(d)

3. Originally they had planned to buy an air-conditioner,(a) but finally settled for

an air-cooler,(b) as the cost of the latter was very less.(c) No error.(d)

4. He was conferred with an Honorary D. Litt degree(a) in recognition of his services(b) to the cause of learning.(c) No error.(d)

5. Unfortunately, in spite of the best efforts of various trade unions,(a) the factory has been under lockout for the past one month,(b) to the chagrin of all.(c) No error.(d)

6. What we fail to understand(a) is that the life of a scientist(b) will always be different from a politician.(c) No error.(d)

7. In spite of my advice to the contrary,(a) he has been working at a stretch(b) for four hours.(c) No error.(d)

8. It is not difficult to understand(a) why he endeavoured so hard to hide(b) the traces of the crime which he committed.(c) No error.(d)

9. The managing director along with other members(a) were accorded(b) a warm welcome on the plantation.(c) No error.(d)

10. Neither of these two documents(a) support your claim(b) on the property.(c) No error.(d)

11. Even on the eve of an inevitable fall,(a) to everyone's dismay,(b) their leader seems to be in their elements.(c) No error.(d)

12. They all met in a room(a) which was close to the Centre(b) to discuss about the plan of action.(c) No error.(d)

13. Two hundred miles(a) are not a great distance(b) in these days of fast travel by aeroplanes.(c) No error.(d)

14. When the police accused him with theft,(a) nobody believed them,(b) as he was well-known for his honesty.(c) No error.(d)

15. This text-book in Physics, which has been(a) written for under-graduate students,(b) comprises of fourteen chapters.(c) No error.(d)

Sentence Improvement

(Items 16 to 30)

Directions:

Look at the underlined part of each sentence. Below each sentence are given three possible substitutions for the underlined part. If one of them (a), (b) or (c) is better than the underlined part, indicate your response on the Answer Sheet against the corresponding letter (a), (b) or (c). If none of the substitutions improve the sentence, indicate (d) as your response on the Answer Sheet. Thus a 'No improvement' response will be signified by the letter (d). Examples R and S have been solved for you.

R. The young child sung a very sweet song.

- (a) singed the
- (b) singed
- (c) sang a
- (d) No improvement

S. I have already read this book twice

- (a) I already twice have read this book.
- (b) I twice have already read this book.
- (c) I have twice already read this book.
- (d) No improvement.

Explanation:

R. For item R, the correct sentence should read, "The young child sang a very sweet song". 'c' is therefore, the correct answer.

S. Item S is a correct sentence. None of the changes suggested will improve it. 'd' is therefore, the correct answer.

Errors may be in grammar, appropriate word usage or idioms. There may be a necessary word missing or there may be a word which should be removed.

Now attempt items 16 to 30.

16. When Rip Van Winkle awoke from his long sleep, he asked where I am.

- (a) I was
- (b) am I

- (c) he was
(d) No improvement
17. To write regularly in pleasure is what she wants to do now.
(a) for pleasure
(b) for the pleasure
(c) with pleasure
(d) No improvement
18. The alternative of my first suggestion is to resign.
(a) for
(b) to
(c) with
(d) No improvement
19. The sparrows took no notice about the bread.
(a) notice of
(b) notice from
(c) notice to
(d) No improvement
20. I had liked her since the first time I had seen her.
(a) have seen
(b) saw
(c) did see
(d) No improvement
21. Applications of those who are graduates will be considered.
(a) who are only graduates
(b) only who are graduates
(c) who are graduates only
(d) No improvement
22. After several years of silent suffering he finally decided to put himself against the manipulations of his political rivals.
(a) stand
(b) fight
(c) set
(d) No improvement
23. I told him that I waited for him for an hour the previous day.
(a) had waited
(b) was waiting
(c) had been waiting
(d) No improvement
24. As Suresh spoke about his achievements, his high claims amused us.
(a) big
(b) tall
(c) huge
(d) No improvement
25. We ought to stand for what is right.
(a) stand up

- (b) stand on
(c) stand at
(d) No improvement
26. I walked away as calmly as I could, or else they thought I was the thief
(a) otherwise
(b) failing which
(c) in case
(d) No improvement
27. A number of steps have been taken with a view to improving the conditions of the backward classes.
(a) to improve
(b) for improving
(c) at improving
(d) No improvement
28. By this time next year John should have completed his degree course at Bombay University.
(a) will complete
(b) would complete
(c) could have completed
(d) No improvement
29. He will not risk going for business with you.
(a) to go for
(b) going into
(c) going in
(d) No improvement
30. It is raining heavily all through this week.
(a) has rained
(b) rains
(c) rained
(d) No improvement

VOCABULARY

Synonyms (Items 31 to 40)

Directions:

In this Section you find a number of sentences, parts of which are underlined. You may also find only a group of words which is underlined. For each underlined part, four words/phrases are listed below. Choose the word nearest in meaning to the underlined part.

Example 'E' is solved for you.

E. His style is quite transparent

- (a) verbose
(b) involved
(c) lucid
(d) witty

Explanation: In item 'E' the word "lucid" is nearest in meaning to the word "transparent". So 'c' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 31 to 40

31. Medical science is yet to come out with a panacea for cancer.
(a) remedy
(b) medicine
(c) treatment
(d) drug
32. The navy gave tactical support to the marines.
(a) sensitive
(b) strategic
(c) expedient
(d) expert
33. Businessmen who lack acumen cannot be expected to be very successful.
(a) smartness
(b) sharpness
(c) keenness
(d) cleverness
34. In modern hospitals, computers check the patients before they see the doctor.
(a) stop
(b) protect
(c) cover
(d) screen
35. A genius tends to deviate from the routine way of thinking
(a) dispute
(b) differ
(c) disagree
(d) distinguish
36. He displayed a distinct tendency to longwinded speeches when asked how he was.
(a) boring
(b) repetitive
(c) circumlocutory
(d) hyperbolic
37. The data is misleading.
(a) illusory
(b) deceptive
(c) misplaced
(d) misinformative
38. This library was built with donations from the munificent citizens of this city.
(a) well-to-do
(b) generous
(c) respectable
(d) learned
39. Some satirists are known for their trenchant style.
(a) sharp
(b) critical
(c) aggressive

(d) incisive

40. Many educationists think that the class-room instruction should be made more vigorous.

- (a) serious
- (b) brisk
- (c) lively
- (d) active

Antonyms (Items 41 to 50)

Directions:

In this Section each item consists of a word or a phrase which is underlined in the sentence given. It is followed by four words or phrases. Select the word or phrase which is closest to the opposite in meaning of the underlined word or phrase.

Example 'F' has been solved for you.

F. Lucy is a smart girl.

- (a) lazy
- (b) active
- (c) indecent
- (d) casual

Explanation: The word which is nearest opposite in meaning to the underlined word "smart" is "lazy". So 'a' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 41 to 50

41. A culturally diverse country has customers with unique needs.

- (a) singular
- (b) unanimous
- (c) uniform
- (d) conformable

42. She paid special attention to those women who had succumbed to adversity.

- (a) surrendered
- (b) given up
- (c) overcome
- (d) demanded

43. Arrangements were made to handle the mammoth gathering tactfully.

- (a) quiet
- (b) significant
- (c) huge
- (d) small

44. He has translated the play into English with fidelity

- (a) difficulty
- (b) insincerity
- (c) carelessness
- (d) inaccuracy

45. Her dress was too slovenly for that kind of interview

(a) gaudy

- (b) tidy
- (c) formal
- (d) old-fashioned

46. I was deeply affected by his urbane behaviour.

- (a) rural
- (b) indifferent
- (c) rude
- (d) unsympathetic

47. The fact was discovered only on reaching the summit.

- (a) base
- (b) ground
- (c) tunnel
- (d) surface

48. He despises classical music.

- (a) appreciates
- (b) respects
- (c) comprehends
- (d) endures

49. He is very callous to the suffering of others.

- (a) indifferent
- (b) sensitive
- (c) kind
- (d) positive

50. The signature tune of this serial is a harmonious blend of notes.

- (a) haphazard
- (b) discordant
- (c) unmusical
- (d) crude

SELECTING WORDS

Simple Sentences (Items 51 to 60)

Directions:

Each of the following sentences has a blank space and four words given after the sentence. Select whichever word you consider most appropriate for the blank space and indicate your choice on the Answer Sheet.

Now attempt items 51 to 60.

51. Many in the crowd whispered, and some even _____ to register their disapproval of the remarks of the speaker.

- (a) shouted
- (b) rose
- (c) protested
- (d) criticised

52. A heavy penalty was _____ on the whole village.

- (a) realized
- (b) imposed

(c) levied

(d) charged

53. The two women looked so alike that it was impossible to _____ between them.

- (a) distinguish
- (b) discriminate
- (c) discern
- (d) identify

54. The campers _____ their tent at the base of the mountain.

- (a) established
- (b) grounded
- (c) pitched
- (d) installed

55. The enemy had captured him and his very life was at stake, still he refused to _____ the State secrets.

- (a) divert
- (b) divulge
- (c) indulge
- (d) invert

56. If the perceptions of two individuals do not _____, there are sure to be problems.

- (a) match
- (b) agree
- (c) meet
- (d) tally

57. The scientist _____ the monkey to get ready for a walk when it heard a bell.

- (a) instructed
- (b) persuaded
- (c) educated
- (d) conditioned

58. Her parents bestowed _____ her all their care and affection.

- (a) to
- (b) with
- (c) in
- (d) upon

59. Vaccination will make people immune _____ certain diseases for a given period.

- (a) against
- (b) with
- (c) for
- (d) to

60. He will never _____ from what he believes to be right.

- (a) dissociate
- (b) distract
- (c) separate
- (d) refrain

COMPREHENSION

(Items 61 to 90)

Directions:

In this Section you have six short passages. After each passage you will find five items based on the passage. First, read Passage I and attempt the items based on it. Then go on to the next passage. Examples 'I' and 'J' are solved for you

Passage

In our approach to life, be it pragmatic or otherwise, a basic fact that confronts us squarely and unmistakably is the desire for peace, security and happiness. Different forms of life at different levels of existence make up the teeming denizens of this earth of ours. And, no matter whether they belong to the higher groups such as human beings or to the lower groups such as animals, all beings primarily seek peace, comfort and security. Life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to a man. Even the lowliest insect strives for protection against dangers that threaten its life. Just as each one of us wants to live and not to die, so do all other creatures.

I. The author's main point is that

- (a) different forms of life are found on earth
- (b) different levels of existence are possible in nature
- (c) peace and security are the chief goals of all living beings
- (d) even the weakest creature struggles to preserve its life

J. Which one of the following assumptions or steps is essential in developing the author's position?

- (a) All forms of life have a single over-riding goal
- (b) The will to survive of a creature is identified with a desire for peace
- (c) All beings are divided into higher and lower groups
- (d) A parallel is drawn between happiness and life and pain and death

Explanation:

I. The idea which represents the author's main point is 'peace and security are the chief goals of all living beings', which is response (c). So 'c' is the correct answer.

J. The best assumption underlying the passage is 'The will to survive of a creature is identified with a desire for peace', which is response (b). So 'b' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 61 to 90

Passage I

Worry is a state of mind based upon fear. It works slowly, but persistently. It is crafty and subtle. Step by step it digs itself in until it paralyses one's reasoning faculty, destroys self-confidence and initiative. Worry is a form of sustained fear caused by indecision; therefore it is a state of mind which can be controlled.

61 The writer's conclusion is that worry

- (a) is based upon fear
- (b) can be controlled
- (c) is a form of sustained fear
- (d) works slowly

62 Worry is a subtle agent that

- (a) cripples one's capacity to think
- (b) sustains fear
- (c) leads to indecision
- (d) leads to unhappiness

63 Worry is ultimately caused by

- (a) sustained fear
- (b) loss of self-confidence
- (c) loss of initiative
- (d) indecision

64 When the author says that worry destroys 'initiative', he means that it

- (a) destroys man's strength
- (b) kills the joy in him
- (c) kills his capacity to see what is necessary
- (d) makes him fearful

65 In this passage the author

- (a) advises us to cast off fear from our minds
- (b) advises us to be on our guard against worry
- (c) tells us how to develop self-confidence
- (d) gives us useful information about worry

Passage II

Although Kenichi Fukui had forwarded his "Frontier Orbital" theory nearly forty years ago, it received recognition in the western world only twenty-five years ago when his paper was translated into English. In fact, when he had forwarded

his theory, which was based on much higher mathematics not easily graspable by practising chemists, he was ignored and attacked by the Japanese chemists. Later on, he became the first Japanese to win the Nobel Prize in chemistry. Soon after the announcement of his winning the Nobel Prize, the Japan government bestowed on him the Order of Culture—a prestigious honour for any Japanese. The recognition of Fukui's work and the Nobel Prize awarded to him clearly show that English is the language of science.

66. Kenichi Fukui's theory of "Frontier Orbital" was recognized

- (a) about forty years ago
- (b) after it was translated into English
- (c) immediately after he forwarded it
- (d) much later after he forwarded it

67. His theory was

- (a) not easily understood by chemists in the world
- (b) received with great enthusiasm by the Japanese chemists
- (c) well-received by the practising chemists
- (d) ignored and attacked by the Japanese chemists

68 The theory was based on

- (a) a paper translated into English
- (b) western theories in chemistry
- (c) higher mathematics
- (d) his experiments in chemistry

69 The announcement of his winning the Nobel Prize made

- (a) him translate the paper into English
- (b) the western world recognize his theory
- (c) Japanese chemists ashamed of themselves
- (d) the Japanese government bestow on him the Order of Culture

70. A prestigious honour for any Japanese is

- (a) to be recognized in the western world
- (b) to win the Nobel Prize in chemistry
- (c) to be given the Order of Culture
- (d) to forward a scientific theory

Passage III

The buses are full of conversation not only on public topics but also on embar-

prisingly private ones, and not only between acquaintances but also between people who have never met before. Among the former the jokes are loud and hearty, and they are also permissible between total strangers. One day a fellow passenger looked at my large sola 'topee' and remarked that it was heavier than my whole body, and when I replied that it was no bigger than his turban he said that he hoped I was not offended by his joke.

71. The phrase 'people who have never met before' means

- (a) acquaintances
- (b) the public
- (c) strangers
- (d) potential friends

72. The most apt word to describe the mood of the passengers is

- (a) relaxed
- (b) embarrassing
- (c) offensive
- (d) funny

73. The writer's reply to the fellow passenger was

- (a) discourteous
- (b) cruel
- (c) ironical
- (d) friendly

74. The writer's reply made his fellow passenger

- (a) feel offended
- (b) indignant
- (c) perplexed
- (d) feel embarrassed

75. From the passage it appears that the writer was:

- (a) reserved
- (b) arrogant
- (c) amiable
- (d) obstinate

Passage IV

If there is one thing for which I honour the human race, it is the way in which it goes on arguing. A visitor from another planet, landing on earth, would be amazed at the extent to which controversy flourishes everywhere except in those ultra-modern countries in which it is forbidden. He would say to himself 'Why do these people argue so hotly? Those who argue were not converted to their beliefs by reason, so why should they hope to convert others by arguments that would not have

convinced themselves? The human being seems to be a person who jumps mystically to conclusions, yet who never loses hope of being able to reason others into the same conclusions.' The fact that in spite of the obvious truth of this, men go on arguing, is a proof of the unquenchable optimism of the human race.

76. The reaction of a visitor from another planet seeing people argue so vehemently would be one of

- (a) hatred
- (b) humour
- (c) irritation
- (d) astonishment

77. The author respects the human race highly for its

- (a) oratorical power
- (b) power to influence people
- (c) capacity to argue
- (d) logical thinking

78. The author believes that the human race is really

- (a) ambitious
- (b) aggressive
- (c) over-confident
- (d) imaginative

79. The author believes that controversies develop in our society because people

- (a) love debates
- (b) have great reasoning capacity
- (c) want to convert others to their points of view
- (d) are interested in controversies

80. The central idea of the passage is

- (a) that debate is good for democracy
- (b) that argument develops our mental faculty
- (c) that by arguing we can win friends
- (d) the folly of converting others to one's own point of view

Passage V

Few parts of the world escaped Western expansion in the Age of Imperialism, but the most dramatic intrusion took place in Black Africa, south of the Sahara, and the full weight of European colonialism was felt there. In the last two decades of the 19th century the European powers transformed the map of Africa. Flaunting their superior technology and their mili-

tary power, they staked claims to whatever territories struck their fancy, sometimes in collaboration with their fellow Europeans, sometimes in opposition to them.

Although there had been a few well-organised kingdoms in Africa—among them Ghana and Mali, which had flourishing cultures in the period known to the West as the Middle Ages—these had disappeared under the impact of internecine warfare and Arab conquests from the north. The inner continent was uncharted, dark and mysterious, and until the last three decades of the 19th century few white men ventured into its vast stretches. But in time explorers, scientists and colourful adventurers flocked from the West to find out what mysteries lay beyond the coasts.

81. During the Age of Imperialism the European powers concentrated their colonisation

- (a) exclusively in Africa
- (b) mainly in Africa
- (c) to a few areas in Africa
- (d) in areas other than Africa

82. Colonialism was possible for the European powers because of their

- (a) collaboration with other major powers
- (b) ability to manipulate the African tribal rulers
- (c) superior technology and military power
- (d) ability to identify what struck their fancy

83. Despite flourishing cultures in some African kingdoms during the Middle Ages, their position had weakened by the middle of the 19th century as a result of

- (a) their internal conflicts and Arab conquests
- (b) superior administrative organisation which the colonizers had
- (c) European aggression
- (d) the vastness of the inner continent

84. What attracted Europeans to Africa during the last three decades of the 19th century was

- (a) motives of greed and acquisition
- (b) a thirst for power and glory
- (c) motives of altruism and social concern

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

- (d) a spirit of adventure and curiosity
85. The inner part of Africa, south of Sahara, was called 'dark' because
- (a) there was little sunshine there
 - (b) not much was known about it
 - (c) it was inhabited by dark complexioned tribes
 - (d) it was full of mysterious creatures of dark colour

Passage VI

If you are caught in an open field, and see the flash of lightning and hear the sound of thunder at practically the same instant, take precautions immediately. Throw away any metallic object you may have. Lie flat on the ground. Do not try to run for shelter until the electrical disturbances have subsided entirely. Remember that poor shelter is worse than none. The big tree standing alone will keep the rain off you, but may draw lightning towards it. If a thunder storm begins when you are swimming or out in a boat, head for the shore at once. There is an old fable that lightning never strikes open water. Many bathers who relied on that belief have lost their lives. Mostly those struck by lightning are likely to be farmers, holiday makers, fishermen or golfers.

86. While sitting in an open field, if one hears the sound of thunder and sees the flash of lightning at the same instant, one should immediately

- (a) run for shelter
- (b) grasp a metallic object
- (c) jump into water
- (d) lie flat on the ground

87. If a thunderstorm begins when one is out in a boat, one should

- (a) row fast
- (b) leave the boat
- (c) reach the shore
- (d) remain where one is

88. What the old fable says about lightning is

- (a) wrong
- (b) right
- (c) heresy
- (d) unscientific

89. Persons most likely to be struck by lightning are those who

- (a) go swimming
- (b) walk in the streets
- (c) work indoors

- (d) spend their time outdoors
90. If there is a flash of lightning in the sky, a tree provides
- (a) a poor shelter
 - (b) an adequate shelter
 - (c) no shelter at all
 - (d) a dangerous shelter

ORDERING OF WORDS IN A SENTENCE (Items 91 to 100)

Directions:

In each of the items 91 to 100, there is a sentence of which some parts have been jumbled up. You are required to re-arrange these parts which are labelled P, Q, R and S to produce the correct sentence. Choose the proper sequence and mark in your Answer Sheet accordingly.

Example Z. It is well known that (P) the effect (Q) is very bad (R) on children (S) of cinema.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P S R Q
- (b) S P Q R
- (c) S R P Q
- (d) Q S R P

Explanation The proper way of writing the sentence is 'It is well known that the effect of cinema on children is very bad.' This is indicated by the sequence P S R Q and so 'a' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 91 to 100

91. If we look at the problem (P) which is the object of science (Q) is an intellectual, ethical and emotional pursuit (R) we will see that the pursuit of truth (S) a little deeply.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) S P R Q
- (b) S R P Q
- (c) P R Q S
- (d) P Q S R

92. It is the general experience (P) that in many cases (Q) of those who try to reassure these anxious men and women (R) than another grows up in its place (S) no sooner is one worry removed.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) Q P S R
- (b) S R P Q
- (c) P Q S R
- (d) S R Q P

93. After reading the letter (P) of the absurd ideas of his brother (Q) and told the friends around him (R) an

uncontrollable fit of laughter (S) he burst into.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P Q S R
- (b) S R Q P
- (c) P S R Q
- (d) S R P Q

94. Hopping from channel to channel on TV is

(P) among adolescents (Q) a popular game (R) conducted by Nielsens (S) according to a survey

The proper sequence should be

- (a) S P Q R
- (b) S R Q P
- (c) Q P R S
- (d) Q R P S

95. One of the earliest attempts (P) was the Dover House (Q) designed (R) by two American scientists (S) at solar heating.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) Q R P S
- (b) Q S P R
- (c) S P R Q
- (d) S P Q R

96. At the intersection (P) the highway robber (Q) snatched away his wallet (R) threatening the scooter driver (S) with his knife.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P R S Q
- (b) R S P Q
- (c) P S Q R
- (d) R P Q S

97. The youth hostel movement (P) during the last century (Q) has contributed to (R) international understanding (S) and racial equality.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P S Q R
- (b) Q R P S
- (c) P S R Q
- (d) Q R S P

98. The necessity (P) is established (Q) for a single world language (R) unless and until a single world government (S) does not arise.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) S R P Q
- (b) S Q R P
- (c) Q S R P
- (d) Q P S R

99. I do not think that (P) of knowledge as their primary duty

(Q) the disinterested pursuit (R) can cease to regard (S) men of science.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) S P R Q
- (b) Q P R S
- (c) Q P S R
- (d) S R Q P

100. We need to understand (P) in the life of the community (Q) how the present situation came to pass (R) and how language actually works (S) a little better.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) S Q R P
- (b) Q P S R
- (c) Q P R S
- (d) S Q P R

ORDERING OF SENTENCES

(Items 101 to 105)

Direction:

In items 101 to 105 each passage consists of six sentences. The first and the sixth sentences are given in the beginning. The middle four sentences in each have been removed and jumbled up. These are labelled P, Q, R and S. You are required to find out the proper order for the four sentences and mark accordingly on the Answer Sheet.

Example

S₁: There was a boy named Jack.

S₆: At last she turned him out of the house.

P: So the mother asked him to find work.

Q: They were very poor.

R: He lived with his mother.

S: But Jack refused to work.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) R Q P S
- (b) P Q R S
- (c) Q P R S
- (d) R P S Q

Explanation: The proper sequence in this Example is: R Q P S which is marked (a). Therefore 'a' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 101 to 105.

101. S₁: Publishing a volume of poems is said to be like dropping a rose petal down a deep gorge and waiting for the echo.

S₆: He did not have long to wait as he was soon acclaimed as a new find by the literary world.

P: Shaw read the first few lines of the

volume and was at once convinced that what he was reading was real poetry.

Q: One day Davies sent a volume of his poems to Bernard Shaw.

R: He bought a few more copies of the book and sent them to well-known poetry critics, and waited to see if they would recognise a poet when they read his work.

S: This was the experience of an obscure poet named W.H. Davies, who today needs no introduction.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) Q S P R
- (b) S R P Q
- (c) S Q P R
- (d) Q R S P

102. S₁: The story of oil began millions of years ago when the Earth was covered by many warm shallow oceans.

S₆: The whole process often took millions of years.

P: As times passed the layer of sludge became very thick and covered with mud.

Q: When they died they sank to the ocean bed and decayed into sludge.

R: The weight of water and mud pressing down on the sludge changed it into tiny drops of oil.

S: Countless millions of tiny sea animals lived in these oceans.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) S Q P R
- (b) P R S Q
- (c) S P R Q
- (d) S Q R P

103. S₁: My hobby is collecting stamps.

S₆: They were in four fat books.

P: Of course she did not let me touch the stamps.

Q: I could touch them when I was old enough not to spoil them.

R: When I was still only a baby, my mother began to collect for me.

S: I remember that it was on my fifteenth birthday that she first put them into my hands.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) S R P Q
- (b) R P Q S
- (c) S P R Q
- (d) R S P Q

104. S₁: In England it is not easy to keep up conversation with women in company.

S₆: None of these things applies to

women in France.

P: You are also afraid of pressing too hard upon them.

Q: The chief reason is that it is considered a piece of rudeness to differ with them.

R: Moreover, even agreeing with them heartily is not considered good manners.

S: Nor can you ask them to give a reason for the opinion they profess.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P S Q R
- (b) Q P R S
- (c) P R Q S
- (d) Q S P R

105. S₁: The pressure of the atmosphere in any one place depends on the air above it.

S₆: The barometer is also called a weather glass but it really tells us only one of the many things of weather—the pressure of air.

P: In one kind, the pressure is indicated by the level of mercury in a tube.

Q: The instrument which measures this changing pressure of air is called the barometer.

R: The other contains no liquid and is called an aneroid.

S: There are two kinds of barometers.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) S R P Q
- (b) Q P R S
- (c) Q S P R
- (d) S P R Q

SELECTING WORDS

(Items 106 to 120)

Directions:

In the following passage (Items 106 to 120) at certain points, you are given a choice of three words marked (a), (b), (c). Choose the best word from these three and indicate your choice in the relevant column of your Answer Sheet. Examples Z₁ and Z₂ have been solved for you.

Z₁

The

(a) boy

(b) horse

(c) dog

was in the school in Shimla.

Z₂

(a) She

(b) It

(c) He

was homesick.

Explanation: Out of the list given in item Z₁, only 'boy' is the correct answer. So, 'a' should be indicated as your response. For item Z₂, 'c' is the correct answer, because that is the pronoun which refers back to the noun 'boy'.

Now attempt items 106 to 120.

If cities are dangerous so

106. (a) were
(b) shall be
(c) are

highways. A third of the fatalities occur

107. (a) on
(b) at
(c) upon

routes where there is neither prompt

108. (a) public
(b) medical
(c) social

aid nor police help. In the cities themselves, 40 per cent

109. (a) among
(b) out of
(c) of

those killed on the roads are

110. (a) pedestrians.
(b) street walkers
(c) pedlars.

A study by Delhi's Indian Institute of Technology

111. (a) announces
(b) reflects
(c) reveals

that 82 per cent of these,

112. (a) faint
(b) die
(c) fall

on straight roads and not

113. (a) on
(b) at
(c) near

intersections. Zebra crossings are

114. (a) death-holes.
(b) death-beds.
(c) death-traps.

Twenty one per cent of the pedestrians

115. (a) were
(b) are
(c) have been

killed on these markings. The risk level of Delhi's two-wheeler riders is five times

116. (a) larger

(b) higher
(c) bigger
than that of the car drivers. Twenty five per cent of the accident

117. (a) victims
(b) targets
(c) persons

in the capital are two-wheeler passengers. Buses are big

118. (a) menace
(b) killers
(c) nuisance

in the cities. Studies show

- 119 (a) as
(b) so that
(c) that

fifty per cent of the accidents is

- 120 (a) caused
(b) made
(c) done

by bad driving

ANSWERS

1. (b) "but returned"
2. (b) "between 2 p m and 3 p m."
3. (c) "...was much less"
4. (a) "He was conferred with an Honorary degree of D. Litt"
5. (d) No error
6. (c) "...different from that of a politician"
7. (d) No error
8. (c) "...which he had committed"

9. (b) "was accorded"
10. (b) "supports your claim"
11. (c) "...to be in his elements"
12. (c) "to discuss the plan of action"
13. (b) "is not a great distance"
14. (a) "when the police accused him of theft"
15. (c) "comprises fourteen chapters"
16. (c) 17. (a) 18. (d) 19. (a)
20. (d) 21. (c) 22. (c) 23. (a)
24. (b) 25. (d) 26. (d) 27. (d)
28. (a) 29. (b) 30. (c) 31. (a)
32. (b) 33. (d) 34. (d) 35. (b)
36. (a) 37. (b) 38. (b) 39. (d)
40. (c) 41. (c) 42. (c) 43. (d)
44. (b) 45. (b) 46. (c) 47. (a)
48. (b) 49. (b) 50. (b) 51. (a)
52. (b) 53. (a) 54. (a) 55. (b)
56. (b) 57. (a) 58. (d) 59. (d)
60. (a) 61. (a) 62. (a) 63. (d)
64. (c) 65. (a) 66. (b) 67. (d)
68. (c) 69. (d) 70. (b) 71. (c)
72. (a) 73. (a) 74. (d) 75. (a)
76. (d) 77. (c) 78. (c) 79. (c)
80. (d) 81. (b) 82. (c) 83. (a)
84. (a) 85. (b) 86. (d) 87. (c)
88. (d) 89. (d) 90. (d) 91. (b)
92. (a) 93. (b) 94. (b) 95. (d)
96. (a) 97. (d) 98. (c) 99. (d)
100. (a) 101. (c) 102. (a) 103. (d)
104. (d) 105. (c) 106. (c) 107. (a)
108. (b) 109. (c) 110. (a) 111. (c)
112. (b) 113. (b) 114. (c) 115. (b)
116. (b) 117. (a) 118. (b) 119. (c)
120. (a)

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I want to pursue stamp collection as a hobby. Can you help me getting started?

—Nupur Ramaswamy, Patna (Bihar)

A good hobby can give hours of relaxation and is an enriching experience. Through stamp collection, one comes to know of other countries and peoples. For starters, get yourself a stamp album. You can buy stamps, but it may be better to have pen friends in other countries. This will help you get many contacts and their letters will bring many stamps. You can also write to foreign radio stations which will add to your collection. For a good collector, every stamp tells a story, which is a source of joy and comfort.

I want to become a software engineer. What would be the best option?

—Abhishek Sircar, Bhubaneswar (Orissa)

The best way to become a software professional is by doing an engineering degree, preferably from IIT, and following it up with MCA. If you cannot get into an engineering college, you may think of options of BCA but you have to choose the institute with care. Many private courses are hardly well-equipped to turn out good software professionals.

I am a member of the Indian Air Force and want to do a degree in automobile engineering through correspondence. Where can I do it from?

—Beant Singh, C/o 56 APO

There are no institutes offering automobile engineering degree through correspondence. Usually, engineering graduates are taken by automobile companies and trained accordingly. You may be advised to do a diploma/degree in engineering from a good college and then hope to get selected in an automobile company on the basis of your experience.

Please provide me with some tips as to how I can perform well in my exams.

—R Priyadarshini, Bhopal (MP)



one's aptitude and interest and decide accordingly.

Why is dim light used in the dining hall of restaurants?

—Balraj Singh, New Delhi

Lighting, colour and interiors are the ways in which restaurants try to create ambience. Customers must feel comfortable and be able to relax in privacy while having their food. Many modern restaurants like chairs of multi-national food giants, however,

prefer bright lighting and functional decor rather than dim lights.

For the first time USA has supported India when Pakistan violated the Line of Control. How did this turn come about?

—Anjan Kumar Roy, Dhanbad (Bihar)

It may be remembered that USA has been the victim of Islamic terrorism. Last year its embassies were bombed resulting in air strikes against camps belonging to Osama Bin Laden. It is common knowledge that Pakistani militants were trained there as well. In such circumstances, USA had to turn against a country which sponsors terrorism and has begun supporting India.

I am studying in class 12 and want to do a course in hotel management. Which is the right time for applying?

—Jitendra Kumar, Faridabad (Haryana)

While you are in class 12, appear in the entrance tests of hotel management institutes. This will help you save one year and put you on the path for a career as soon as you finish school.

I want to do MBA but am not in a position to pay the huge fees quoted by most institutes. What options do I have?

—Ritesh Kumar, Patna

You can apply to universities and institutes run by State governments. These are relatively cheap and you can still achieve your goal.

ASK THE MASTER!

Allocate your time for different subjects and develop the discipline to stick to your time schedule. Do not sit for too long but learn to take breaks after 45 minutes or 1 hour. Organise your study materials well so that time is not wasted. For further tips, you might like to read "How to Study and take exams" published by Khanna Brothers (Rs 20).

The article on CAT '99 was very helpful but my reading speed is very slow. How can I increase it?

—Dhanraj Chandania, Calcutta

Speed reading is acquired by constant extra reading. You should develop a habit of reading books and magazines, even on subjects which are not of interest to you. You can also do some exercises on speed reading as given in our book "Master Guide for MBA Entrance". Reading speeds have jumped by using the techniques in the book.

Which is a better career option—MBA or MCA?

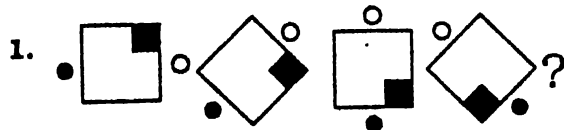
—Vinod Prasanna, Mysore

We are often asked such questions but the fact is that the answer varies from person to person, depending on individual preferences. A person who does not have the aptitude or patience to write programs would be ill-advised to do MCA. Likewise, a person who has no interest in business should not think of MBA. A person has to look within oneself and discover

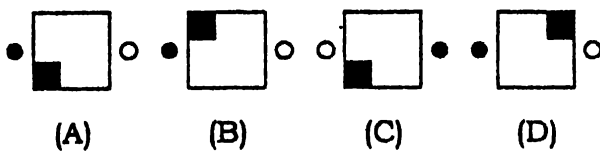
Test of Reasoning-1

Question paper of Staff Selection Commission (Combined) Preliminary Exam
(Graduate Level) 1999 held on 4-7-99

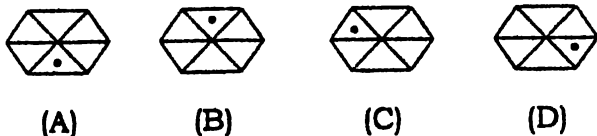
Directions: (Question Nos. 1 and 2) Complete the series of figures, by selecting correct answer figure from the given responses.



Answer Figures:



Answer Figures:



3. A man starts from a point and walks 2 km towards north. He turns right and walks 3 km. Then he turns left and travels 2 km. What is the direction he is now facing?

(A) East (B) West (C) South (D) North

4. Five men A, B, C, D and E read a newspaper. The one who reads first gives it to C, the one who reads last had taken it from A. E was not the first or last to read. There were two readers between B and A. Find the person who read the newspaper last.

(A) E (B) B (C) D (D) A

5. A is B's daughter. B is C's mother. D is C's brother. How is D related to A?

(A) Father (B) Grandfather (C) Brother (D) Son

6. 50 men can dig 40 holes in 30 days. How long will 25 men take to dig 20 holes?

(A) 15 days (B) $22\frac{1}{2}$ days
(C) 30 days (D) 45 days

7. If GOLD is written as IQNF, how WIND can be written in the code?

(A) YKPF (B) XJOE (C) VHMC (D) DNIW

8. If A = 1, PAT = 37, then TAP = ?

(A) 73 (B) 37 (C) 36 (D) 38

9. If D = 4, BAD = 7, then what is the value of ANT?

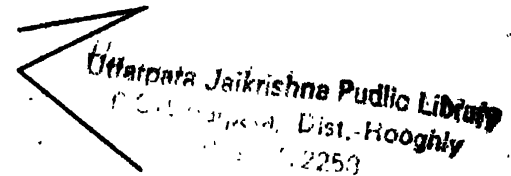
(A) 8 (B) 17 (C) 35 (D) 37

10. If HKUJ means FISH, what does UVCD mean?

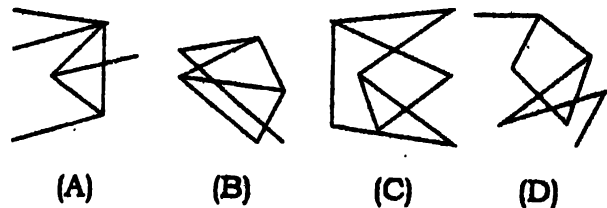
(A) STAR (B) STAB (C) STAL (D) STAK

Directions: (Question Nos. 11 and 12) In which answer figure is the given figure embedded?

11



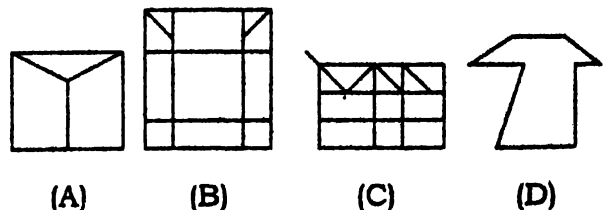
Answer Figures:



12.



Answer Figures:



13. Following a statement, conclusions I, II and III are given. Which one of the four alternatives is correct?

Statement:

Ministers arrived at the public function in their cars.

Conclusions:

I. All ministers are rich.

II. Ministers have cars.

III. Ministers came to the public function.

(A) Only II and III are implicit in the statement.

(B) Only I is implicit in the statement.

(C) Only I and II are implicit in the statement.

(D) Only III and I are implicit in the statement.

14. Following a statement, conclusions I and II are given. Which one of the four alternatives is correct?

Statement:

Philanthropes with their human compassion and zeal to help

the needy have contributed to human welfare in every society.
Conclusions.

- I. Rich persons are philanthropes.
 - II. Poor people cannot act as philanthropes.
- (A) Only I is implicit in the statement.
(B) Both I and II are implicit.
(C) Neither I nor II are implicit.
(D) Only II is implicit.

15. Following a question, statements I and II are given.
Which one of the four alternatives is correct?

Question.

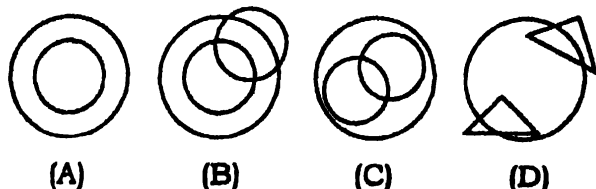
In which direction is statue of Vivekananda facing?

Statements:

- I. The shadow of the statue falls towards east at 6 o'clock in the evening.
 - II. The statue is towards the western end of the city.
- (A) Only I is sufficient to answer the question.
(B) Only II is sufficient to answer the question.
(C) Both I and II are needed to answer the question
(D) Both I and II are not sufficient to answer the question.

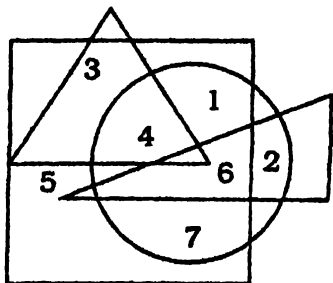
16. Which one of the following figures represents the statement?

'All the persons know English. Few of them know Hindi also. Those who know Hindi know Bengali.'



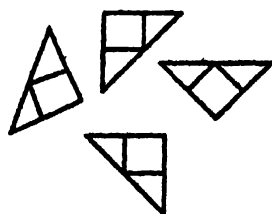
(A) (B) (C) (D)

17. Which number is present only in one figure?

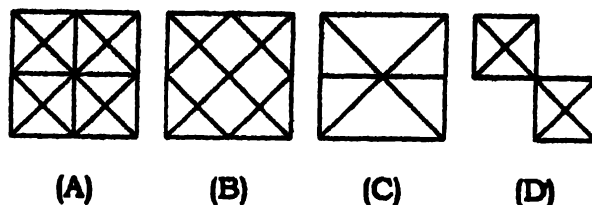


(A) 1 (B) 3 (C) 5 (D) 7

18. Among the four answer figures, which can be formed from the cut-pieces given below?

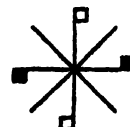


Answer Figures:

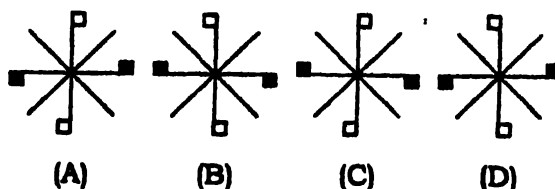


(A) (B) (C) (D)

19. Choose the correct water-image of the figure from responses given below:

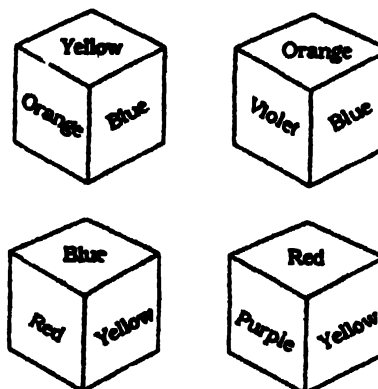


Answer Figures:



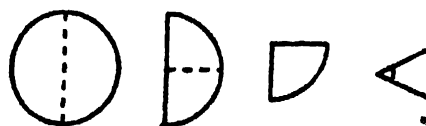
(A) (B) (C) (D)

20. Which colour is opposite to yellow?

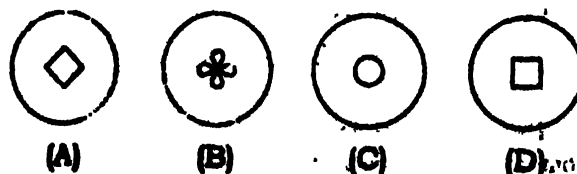


(A) Violet (B) Red (C) Purple (D) Blue

21. A piece of circular paper is folded and cut as shown below. How will it appear when opened? Select your response from answer figures.



Answer Figures:

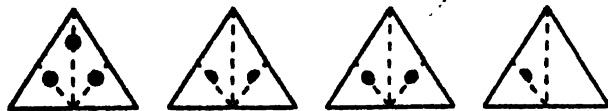


(A) (B) (C) (D)

22. A triangular piece of paper is folded and punched as shown in the question figure. How will it appear when opened? Select your response from answer figures.

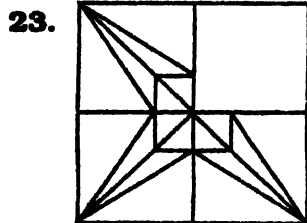


Answer Figures:



(A) (B) (C) (D)

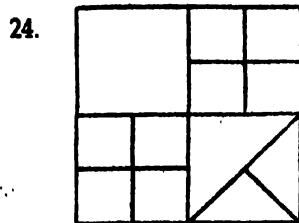
Directions: (Question Nos. 23 and 24) Which answer figure will complete the question figure?



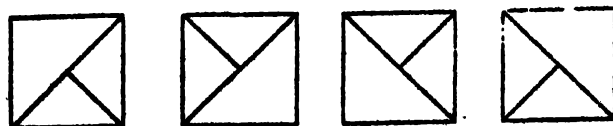
Answer Figures:



(A) (B) (C) (D)



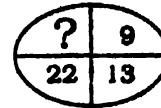
Answer Figures:



(A) (B) (C) (D)

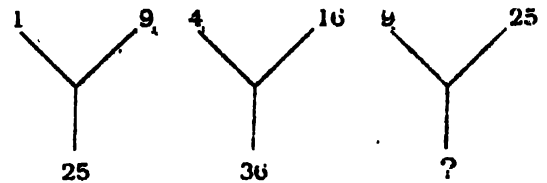
Directions: (Question Nos. 25 to 27) Find the missing number from the given alternatives.

25.



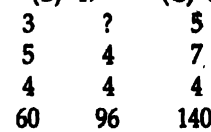
(A) 40 (B) 38 (C) 39 (D) 44

26.



(A) 47 (B) 49 (C) 50 (D) 57

27.



(A) 4 (B) 6 (C) 8 (D) 9

28. Find the word that cannot be formed from the letters in the word PHOTOSYNTHETIC.

(A) THOSE (B) SCENT
(C) PRONE (D) COTTON

Directions: (Question Nos. 29 to 32) Select the related word/number from the given alternatives.

29. Touch : Feel :: Greet : ?

(A) Smile (B) Acknowledge
(C) Success (D) Manners

30. TALE : LATE :: ? : CAFE

(A) FACE (B) CAEF (C) CEFA (D) FEAC

31. 3 : 243 :: 5 : ?

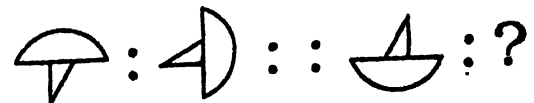
(A) 405 (B) 465 (C) 3125 (D) 546

32. 6 : 18 :: 4 : ?

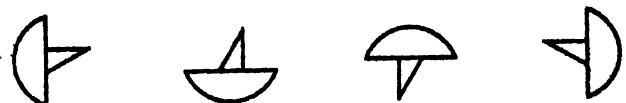
(A) 2 (B) 6 (C) 9 (D) 16

Directions: (Question Nos. 33 to 35) Select the related figure from the answer figures.

33.

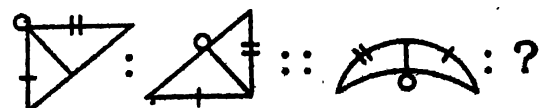


Answer Figures:

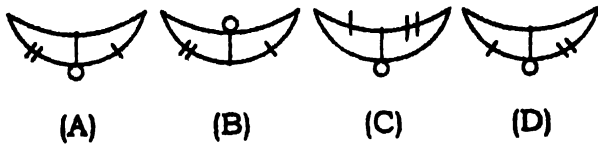


(A) (B) (C) (D)

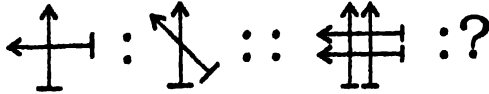
34.



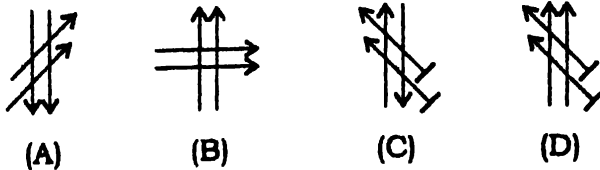
Answer Figures:



35



Answer Figures



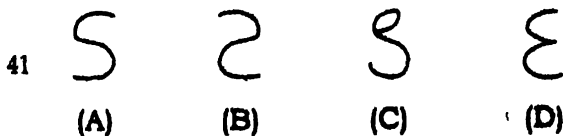
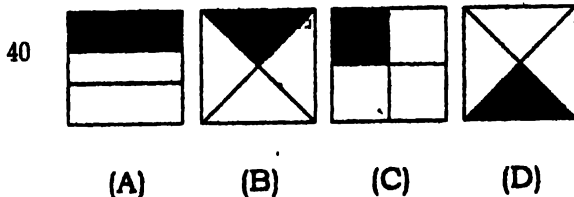
36. Which words of the following do not have the same relationship as between the words CHARITABLE and SELFISH?

- (A) ILLUMINATE and DARKEN
- (B) ADHERE and STICK TO
- (C) CHASTE and IMMORAL
- (D) SADISTIC and KINDHEARTED

Directions: (Question Nos. 37 to 39) Find the odd word/letters/number pair from the given responses.

- 37. (A) Withdrawal
- (B) Deduction
- (C) Deposit
- (D) Debit
- 38. (A) 62-37
- (B) 74-40
- (C) 85-60
- (D) 103-78
- 39. (A) ABZY
- (B) BCYX
- (C) CDXW
- (D) DEVU

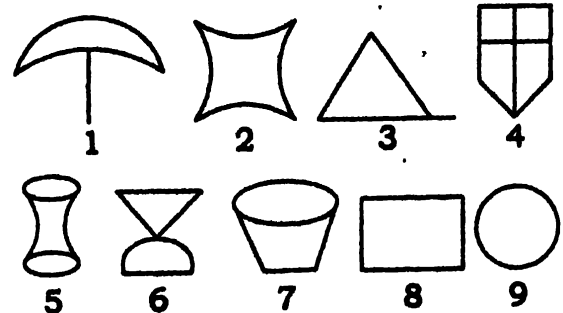
Directions: (Question Nos. 40 and 41) From the given responses, find the odd figure out.



Directions: (Question Nos. 42 and 43) From the alternatives, select the set which is most like the given set.

- 42. Given set
(23, 29, 37)
- (A) (17, 21, 29)
- (B) (31, 37, 49)
- (C) (13, 15, 23)
- (D) (41, 47, 53)
- 43. Given set
(8, 48, 64)
- (A) (8, 26, 30)
- (B) (16, 34, 31)
- (C) (12, 24, 36)
- (D) (11, 21, 13)

44. A series of figures are given which can be grouped into classes. From the responses, select the groups into which the figures can be classified.



- (A) 2, 5, 9
- 3, 6, 8
- 1, 4, 7
- (B) 1, 6, 7
- 3, 5, 8
- 2, 4, 9
- (C) 2, 5, 9
- 3, 4, 8
- 1, 6, 7
- (D) 1, 3, 8
- 2, 4, 6
- 5, 7, 9

Directions: (Question Nos. 45 and 46) Which one of the given responses would be a meaningful order of the following words?

- 45. (a) Honey (b) Flower (c) Bee (d) Wax
- (A) b, a, d, c
- (B) b, c, a, d
- (C) d, c, b, a
- (D) a, c, d, b
- 46. (1) Plant (2) Food (3) Seed (4) Leaf (5) Flower
- (A) 1, 3, 4, 5, 2
- (B) 3, 2, 4, 5, 1
- (C) 3, 1, 4, 5, 2
- (D) 5, 4, 3, 2, 1

47. Which one set of letters when sequentially placed at the gaps in the given letter series shall complete it?

ZX—TR—NLJ—FD—

- (A) V P H B
(B) V R H B
(C) U P J B
(D) V P J B

Directions: (Question Nos. 48 to 50) From the given responses, find the missing number/date in the series.

48. 10, 100, 200, 310, ?

- (A) 400
(B) 410
(C) 420
(D) 430

49. 4/12/95, 1/1/96, 29/1/96, 26/2/96, ?

- (A) 24/3/96
(B) 25/3/96
(C) 26/3/96
(D) 27/3/96

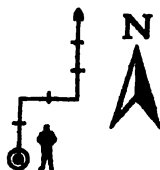
50. 2, 3, 10, 29, 66, ?

- (A) 89
(B) 99
(C) 127
(D) 130

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

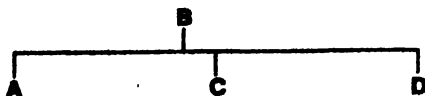
1. (C) The main square rotates clockwise and the black and white dots go round anti-clockwise completing the rotation and round in eight steps.
2. (D) The dot haps round clockwise covering one more part of the hexagon with each step.

3. (D)



4. (C) The order is B C E A D

5. (C)



6. (C) The amount of work and man-power is half.
7. (A) Keep the alphabets in front of you; each letter of the word has its code after a gap of one letter.
8. (B) The value of each letter is fixed according to its position in the alphabetical order and the values are added together.

PAT would be $16 + 1 + 20$ and TAP $20 + 1 + 16 = 37$.

9. (C) Same as above,

BAD is $2 + 1 + 4 = 7$ and ANT $1 + 14 + 20 = 35$

10. (B) Same as in question number 7.

11. (B)

13. (A)

12. (C)

14. (C)

15. (D)



Statements I and II, both independently confirm the site of the situation and there is an assumption that the statue is facing east since the city lies in that direction. But it is not confirmed through statements.

16. (A) The outer circle stands for English-knowing persons and the inner one for those who know Hindi and Bengali both.

17. (C)

18. (B)

19. (C)

20. (A)

21. (C)

22. (C)

23. (B)

24. (B)

25. (B) $9 + 2^2 = 13$; $13 + 3^2 = 22$; hence $22 + 4^2 = 38$.

26. (B) The arrangement is 1^2 ; 3^2 ; 5^2 , then 2^2 ; 4^2 ; 6^2 and finally 3^2 ; 5^2 and 7^2 i.e. 49.

27. (B) The arrangement is $3 \times 5 \times 4 = 60$, $6 \times 4 \times 4 = 96$ and $5 \times 7 \times 4 = 140$.

28. (C) The main word has no 'R'.

29. (B) Both are related in the same way.

30. (A) First and third letters interchange places.

31. (A) The second number is 81 times of the first one.

32. (D) The numbers have a difference of 12.

33. (A) The figure tilts clockwise and the right-angle triangle changes direction.

34. (A) The figure changes direction and turns upside down. The patterns interchange places and the circle remains where it was.

35. (D) The arrows pointing towards left turn at an angle of 45° .

36. (B) All the others are opposites while these two convey the same sense.

37. (C) All the others are used in its opposite sense.

38. (B) All the other pairs have a difference of 25.

39. (D) The first two letters in all the other sets have the same position in the alphabets from A as the last two have from Z.

40. (A) In all the others, $1/4$ th part of the figures is painted black.

41. (C) All the others have the same type of figure up and down.

42. (D) All are prime numbers.

43. (C) The numbers are divisible by 4.

44. (C) The first set is formed with curves only, the second with straight lines and the third with both.

45. (B)

46. (C)

47. (A) The series is formed with gap of one letter between each two.

48. (D) Go on adding 90, 100, 110, 120 to numbers respectively.

49. (B) Each next date is the 28th day from the previous date; i.e. both have a gap of 27 days.

50. (C) The series is $0^3 + 2$; $1^3 + 2 = 3$; $2^3 + 2 = 10$; $3^3 + 2 = 29$; $4^3 + 2 = 66$, hence the next one would be $5^3 + 2 = 127$.

Test of Reasoning - 2

Directions: Qs. 1-6. In each of the following questions, a number series is given. Below this series, a number is given followed by (A), (B), (C), (D) and (E). After understanding the pattern in the given number series, you have to form another number series in the same order, starting from the given number:

1. 15 16 12 21 5
23 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (D)?

- (1) 11 (2) 13 (3) 14
(4) 16 (5) None of these
2. 7 8 10 14 22
11 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (E)?

- (1) 32 (2) 48 (3) 38
(4) 42 (5) None of these
3. 3 4 6 10 18
9 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (E)?

- (1) 314 (2) 302 (3) 226
(4) 198 (5) None of these
4. 11 10 18 51 200
7 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (C)?

- (1) 29 (2) 32 (3) 27
(4) 41 (5) None of these
5. 3 9 27 4 16
7 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (B)?

- (1) 343 (2) 21 (3) 63
(4) 312 (5) None of these
6. 2 8 16 64 128
3 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (C)?

- (1) 96 (2) 48 (3) 64
(4) 124 (5) None of these

Directions: Qs. 7-13. The following table is the record of quarterly sale of a shop selling some of the sports-items. The chart covers five items, with the rate per piece and number of items sold. Study the table and answer the questions that follow:

Items →	Hockey	Bat	Leather-Ball	Cork-Ball	Foot-Ball
Rate Per Piece →	Rs 160	Rs 150	Rs 50	Rs 30	Rs 90
Quarterlies ↓					
Jan to March	90	95	435	565	80
Apr to June	65	110	450	605	75
July to Sept	70	72	380	490	75
Oct to Dec	95	125	470	580	85

7. Which of the items has earned the maximum amount?

- (1) hockey (2) bat (3) leather ball
(4) cork ball (5) foot-ball

8. The sale of first quarterly is how much more or less than the second quarterly?

- (1) Rs 250 more (2) Rs 350 less (3) Rs 50 less
(4) Rs 450 more (5) The sale is the same

9. The amount received by the sale of the cork-balls during the whole year is ..

- (1) Rs 59800 (2) Rs 59200 (3) Rs 68100
(4) Rs 67200 (5) None of these

10. If the owner of the shop earns Rs 12 per bat, how much amount did he earn during the year through the sale of this particular item?

- (1) Rs 4920 (2) Rs 4824 (3) Rs 4800
(4) Rs 4776 (5) None of these

11. What is the difference in the amount received by the sale of bats and hockeys at the end of the year?

- (1) Rs 8200 (2) Rs 7850 (3) Rs 12150
(4) Rs 9100 (5) None of these

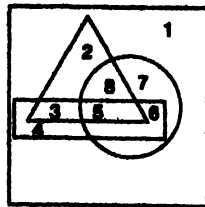
12. How much amount was received by the sale of the items during the third quarterlies, i.e. July to September?

- (1) Rs 79500 (2) Rs 82500 (3) Rs 79850
(4) Rs 81850 (5) None of these

13. If the whole amount that was sold during the year was purchased for Rs 1,80,000, what approximately has been the annual percentage of profit?

- (1) 63.2% (2) 71.2% (3) 58.8%
(4) 60.5% (5) None of these

Directions: Qs. 14 to 16 are based on the following diagram in which the big square numbered 1 represents women, the circle represents married women, the triangle represents those who are in government service and the rectangle represents the section who have their own private business. Each section of the diagram is numbered. Answer the questions given below the diagram on the basis of the study of the diagram.



14. Which of the section does number 8 represent?
 (1) Married women who have their own private business.
 (2) Unmarried women who have government jobs.
 (3) Married women who are in government jobs.
 (4) Married women who have a business of their own as well as a government job.
 (5) None of these

15. The number representing the section of women who are unmarried but have a government job as well as some business of their own is.

- (1) 2 (2) 3 (3) 4 (4) 8 (5) None of these

16. The number representing married women who neither have a job nor own a business is:

- (1) 5 (2) 6 (3) 7 (4) 8 (5) None of these

Directions: Qs. 17-24. In each of the following questions, a pair of words is given that have a definite relationship between them. Your task is to find out from the given options, the pair of words with a similar relationship between them.

17. lungs : ribs.

- (1) lips : teeth (2) shirt : neck-tie
 (3) food : stomach (4) nut : shell
 (5) tree : fruit

18. compass : direction.

- (1) clock : time (2) mercury : thermometer
 (3) rhyme : poetry (4) balance : weigh
 (5) spade : dig

19. garnet : topaz.

- (1) gold : ornament (2) diamond : ring
 (3) water : cloud (4) boat : ship
 (5) ostrich : peacock

20. expectation : anticipation.

- (1) reservation : consideration
 (2) punishment : law (3) investigate : crime
 (4) blood : relations (5) destruction : demolition

21. justice : partiality.

- (1) education : learning (2) wit : dullness
 (3) ellipse : circle (4) alert : careful
 (5) ecology : environment

22. yard : metre.

- (1) centimetre : centigrade (2) temperature : pressure
 (3) gallon : litre (4) distance : length
 (5) space : sky

23. petal : flower.

- (1) screen : TV (2) chair : furniture
 (3) paper : woodpulp (4) cotton : clothes
 (5) money : buy

24. vehicle : travel

- (1) shoe : foot (2) emotion : sentiment
 (3) ink : pen (4) scissors : cut
 (5) light : sun

25. Four of the five equations given below and numbered (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) are exactly equal while one is different. You have to find this odd-man out:

(1) $(\frac{7}{8} + \frac{3}{6}) \times \frac{12}{11} - \frac{1}{2}$

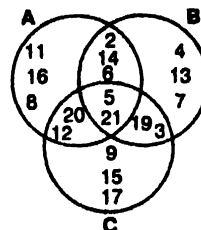
(2) $\frac{\sqrt{144}}{6} \times \frac{3}{4} + \frac{3}{2} - 2$

(3) $\{(3 + 4)^2 + 9\} \div 29 - 1$

(4) $\frac{2 \times 24}{16} \times \frac{5}{3} - 2$

(5) $(\frac{25}{7} + \frac{5}{14}) + (\frac{8}{10} \times \frac{5}{2}) \div 11$

Directions: Qs. 26-28. Study the diagram given below carefully and answer the questions that follow:



26. What is the total of numbers that are inclusive in A and B with no interference of C and A and C with no interference of B?

- (1) 76 (2) 54 (3) 64 (4) 61 (5) None of these

27. If the total of numbers inclusive in the common set of A, B and C is deducted from the total of the numbers exclusive in A, B and C, the result would be ...

- (1) 62 (2) 65 (3) 69 (4) 74 (5) None of these

28. What is the total of the numbers that are inclusive in sets of two?

- (1) 76 (2) 68 (3) 64 (4) 63 (5) None of these

Directions: Qs. 29-33 are based on the information given below:

Five persons A, B, C, D and E work as manager, receptionist, accountant, CA and fashion designer and have hobbies of painting, cooking, bird-watching, gardening and reading but not in the same order.

B and D do not like cooking or reading nor they are CA or fashion-designer.

C is not an accountant.

D and E are neither accountant nor manager.

Painter is the receptionist and bird-watcher the fashion designer.

C and E are not interested in gardening nor they are fashion designer.

The CA loves cooking.

29. What is A's hobby?

- (1) painting (2) cooking (3) bird-watching

- (4) gardening (5) reading

30. Who is the receptionist?

- (1) B (2) C (3) D (4) E (5) Data inadequate

31. What is E by profession?

- (1) manager (2) receptionist (3) accountant

- (4) CA (5) fashion designer

32. Whose hobby is painting?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C (4) D (5) E

33. Which of the following statements is wrong?

- (1) The accountant is interested in reading

- (2) D is receptionist (3) B and E are not manager

- (4) Manager is not interested in gardening

- (5) None of the above

34. In a series of three numbers that add up to 160, the difference between the first two numbers is 50 less than the third number and the ratio between the first and the third number is 1 : 6. What is the second number?

- (1) 48 (2) 55 (3) 65 (4) 60 (5) None of these

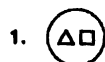
35. A started from point P at 7 A.M. at the speed of 4 km per hour. At what time should B start from point P so as to catch A at 8.45 A.M.? The speed of B is 5 km per hour.

- (1) 7.24 A.M. (2) 7.21 A.M. (3) 7.28 A.M.

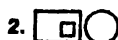
- (4) 7.32 A.M. (5) None of these

Directions: Qs. 36-40. Each of the following questions has three elements with some relationship among them. This relationship is depicted through sketches drawn against (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5), but not in the same order. Each geometrical figure represents one of the items irrespective of its size and shape. Your task is to match the right parts.

36. Asia Kargil : India



37. reptiles : python lizard



38. cake : rasagulla sugar



39. Earth Moon : Mars



40. Africa : Maoris : Pygmies



SYLLOGISMS

In each question below are given two statements followed by four conclusions numbered I, II, III and IV. You have to take the two given statements to be true even if they seem at variance with commonly known facts. Read all the conclusions and then decide which of them logically follow from the statements, disregarding commonly known facts.

Statements:

41. 1. Some kings were brave.
2. All kings were rich.

Conclusions:

- I. The kings who were not brave were rich.
II. brave kings were not rich.
III. No one other than kings was brave.
IV. All rich persons became kings.
(1) Only I follows.
(2) Only II follows.
(3) Only I and IV follow.
(4) Either III or IV follows
(5) None follows.

Statements

42. 1. All mountains are glaciers
2. All glaciers are rivers.

Conclusions:

- I. All mountains are rivers.
II. All rivers are glaciers
III. Some glaciers are mountains
IV. The glaciers that are mountains are not rivers
(1) Only I follows
(2) Only I and II follow
(3) Only I and III follow
(4) Either III or IV follows
(5) Only II and IV follow

Statements

43. 1. All pistols are guns
2. Some guns are bombs

Conclusions

- I. Every gun is either pistol or bomb.
II. Some pistols are bombs.
III. All guns are pistols
IV. No bomb is a pistol
(1) Only I and II follow.
(2) Only III and IV follow.
(3) Only I follows
(4) Either II or IV follows
(5) Either I or III follows

Statements.

44. 1. Some caps are helmets.
2. Some turbans are helmets.

Conclusions:

- I. Some helmets are caps as well as turbans.
II. Every helmet is either a cap or a turban.
III. Some helmets are neither cap nor turban.
IV. The helmets that are caps are not turbans.
(1) Only I and II follow.
(2) Either I or II follows.
(3) Only III and IV follow.
(4) All the four follow
(5) Only any one of the four follows.

Statements

45. 1. Some tyres are horns.
2. Some horns are drivers.

Conclusions:

- I. Some tyres are drivers.
II. Some horns are not tyres.

- III. No driver is a tyre.
IV. All drivers are horns.

- (1) Only I and II follow.
(2) Only III and IV follow.
(3) Either I or III follows.
(4) Either II or IV follows.
(5) All the four follow.

Statements:

46. 1. All books are dictionaries.
2. All inks are dictionaries.

Conclusions:

- I. All books are inks.
II. All dictionaries are books as well as inks.
III. Some inks are not dictionaries.
IV. Every dictionary is either a book or an ink.
(1) Only I follows.
(2) Only II follows.
(3) Only III follows.
(4) Only IV follows.
(5) None follows.

Statements:

47. 1. Only those boys play foot-ball who do not play tennis.
2. All tennis players are short.

Conclusions:

- I. All foot-ball players are tall.
II. Tall persons can't play foot-ball.
III. All short persons play tennis.
IV. No boy plays tennis as well as foot-ball.
(1) Only I follows.
(2) Only II follows.
(3) Only III follows.
(4) Only IV follows.
(5) None follows.

Statements:

48. 1. Among six poles, F is higher than A but lower than C which is not as high as B is.
2. D is higher than E but shorter than A.

Conclusions:

- I. D is shorter than C.
II. B is the highest.
III. F is higher than D.
IV. E is the shortest.
(1) Only I, II, and III follow.
(2) Only II, III and IV follow.
(3) Only I, III and IV follow.
(4) Only I, II and IV follow.
(5) All the four follow.

In each question given below a statement is followed by three assumptions numbered I, II and III. An assumption is something supposed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the assumptions and then decide which of the assumptions is implicit in the statement. Then decide which of the answers is correct.

Statement:

49. Some of the knowledgeable and eminent citizens' suggestion, 'All future Defence Ministers should undergo at least

two years' 'military training.'

Assumptions:

- I. Unless a person has had military training, his speculations cannot be right where army strategies are concerned.
II. The present Defence Minister has taken the training.
III. This valuable suggestion will be accepted and added to our Constitution.
(1) Only I is implicit.
(2) Only II is implicit.
(3) Only III is implicit.
(4) Either I or III is implicit.
(5) None is implicit.

Statement:

50. 'Spirituality, defined as a belief in a higher power that gives life a meaning, improves overall health and may prolong life', a published study.

Assumptions:

- I. The span of life to some extent depends upon the way we live.
II. Persons who are away from spirituality are not healthy and have short lives.
III. An inner power provides a strength that helps in overall living, hence health and longevity are its natural results.
(1) Only I is implicit.
(2) Only II is implicit.
(3) Only III is implicit.
(4) Only I and III are implicit.
(5) Only II and III are implicit.

Statement:

51. The modern architects are giving great weightage to the ancient Indian 'Vastu Shastra'.

Assumptions:

- I. The modern study of architecture lacks the depth of old wisdom.
II. In the good old days, the technology of designing buildings was much more advanced as compared to the modern era.
III. Old buildings, made according to 'Vastu Shastra' are more comfortable than new ones.
(1) Only I is implicit. (2) Only II is implicit.
(3) Only III is implicit. (4) Any one of the three is implicit.
(5) None is implicit.

Statement:

52. Trains with speeds ranging from 250 to 300 kmph have been proposed for selected routes in India.

Assumptions:

- I. Trains at present are not running at such a high speed.
II. The cost of these trains would be higher than the cost of conventional ones.
III. These trains will accommodate more passengers than the present-day trains.
(1) Only I is implicit.

- (2) Only I and II are implicit.
 (3) Either I or II is implicit.
 (4) Only III is implicit. (5) All are implicit.

Statement:

53. Most of the judicial world is against the women organisations' campaign for mercy to women convicts

Assumptions:

- I. There should be no discrimination on gender basis where crimes are concerned.
 II. Basically women are not criminals.
 III. The judges are unnecessarily harsh and strict where women criminals are concerned.

- (1) Only I is implicit. (2) Only II is implicit.
 (3) Either I or III is implicit. (4) Only III is implicit.
 (5) None is implicit.

Statement:

54. Tremor-resistant houses are being erected in Chamoli, while most of the residents are living in canvas tents.

Assumptions:

- I. The cost of constructing these houses is less than the other houses.
 II. Most of the houses in the area are a heap of debris due to recent earthquakes.
 III. More earthquakes are expected in the area.

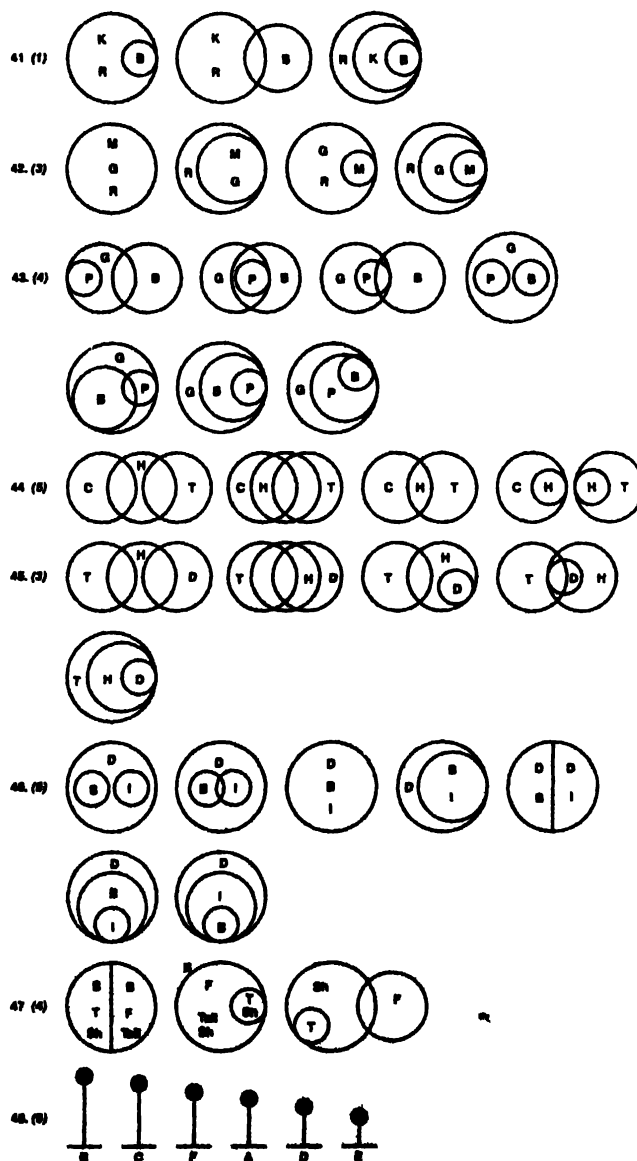
- (1) Only I and II are implicit.
 (2) Only II and III are implicit.
 (3) Only I and III are implicit.
 (4) All are implicit.
 (5) Only any one of the three is implicit.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (2) Go on adding and subtracting $1^2, 2^2, 3^2, 4^2$ from numbers respectively, i.e. $23 + 1^2; 24 - 2^2; 20 + 3^2; 29 - 4^2 \dots$
2. (4) Go on adding 1, 2, 4, 8 ... to numbers.
3. (3) Each number is double -2 of the preceding number.
4. (3) The series is, $11 \times 1 - 1 = 10; 10 \times 2 - 2 = 18; 18 \times 3 - 3 \dots$
5. (1) The pattern is: $3; 3^2; 3^3; 4; 4^2; 4^3 \dots$ hence $7; 7^2; 7^3, 8 \dots$
6. (1) The pattern is, $2 \times 4 = 8; 8 \times 2 = 16; 16 \times 4 = 64; 64 \times 2 = 128.$
7. (3) It is Rs 86750.
8. (1) Jan to Mar, Rs 74550 and Apr to June Rs 74300.
9. (4) 10. (2) Rs 12 on 402 bats.
11. (4) Bats Rs 60300 - hockeys Rs 51200.
12. (2)
13. (1) There is Rs 113800 profit on Rs 180000
i.e. Rs 293800 - Rs 180000.
14. (3) 15. (2) 16. (3)
17. (4) One is protected by the other.
18. (1) One element helps in finding out the other.
19. (5) Both belong to the same category—stone : bird.
20. (5) Both convey the same sense with a little different shade.
21. (2) They are opposite faces of the same coin.
22. (3) Both are units of measurement for measuring the same type of element.

23. (1) One is a part of the other.
24. (4) One is a medium for doing the other.
25. (4) 26. (2) 27. (4) 28. (1) 29. (3)
30. (3) 31. (4) 32. (4) 33. (1)
34. (2) The series is $15 : 55 : 90.$
35. (2) The distance is 7 km. A, 1 hr 45 mts and B, 1 hr 24 mts.
36. (4) Kargil is in India and India in Asia.
37. (1) Two are different members of the same general category
38. (5) Sugar is the common element in both.
39. (3) All are different bodies.
40. (2) Pygmies live in Africa but Maoris are in Australia.

The best way to answer the next type of questions is by drawing diagrams of all the probable situations and then reach the fool-proof conclusion. Let each item be represented by a circle irrespective of its size. Here are a few examples to help you



49. (1) 50. (4) 51. (5) 52. (2) 53. (1)
 54. (2)

Short Notes on National News

INDIA-PAKISTAN

Kargil vacated but conflict continues

THE Indian Army had to use over 16 Infantry battalions (about 16,000 soldiers), assisted by sixty pieces of Bofors howitzers, multi-barrel rocket launchers and, of course, the air support, to dislodge approximately 1000 Pakistani intruders from Kargil heights. The international pressure, especially from USA, finally forced Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to call-off the operation.

Following the de-escalation of conflict Mr Sharif invited the Indian Prime Minister for a face-to-face talks 'without wasting any time'. However, India made it clear that talks can be resumed only after complete sanctity of LoC is restored and Pakistan completely stops its support to cross-border terrorism. While there is no more direct confrontation at Kargil heights, Pakistan has continued to shell Indian positions all along the LoC. Also, the terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir have been stepped-up.

In a startling disclosure, BSF's Inspector General in Baramullah in J & K has claimed that over 1200 foreign militants have occupied the high ridges on the Indian side of LoC. Armed with latest weapons and sophisticated communication systems, these militants are lodged in the border districts of Kupwara and Baramullah.

The militants announced their presence with three major strikes in the first week of August. On August 6, in a pre-dawn attack, militants stormed an

army camp and engaged troops in a fierce face-to-face encounter that left five army men, including an officer, dead. On August 7, a Rashtriya Rifles Colonel was killed in a broad daylight ambush. This was followed by an attack on army brigade HQ on August 8. The HQ was located eight kilometres from Kupwara town. The militants were equipped with sophisticated weapons, including rocket-launchers and UMGs.

The Trehgam area of Kupwara district, around which all the attacks took place, had been free from militancy since 1994.

The stepped up militant activity has proved that Pakistan is hell bent in continuing to create trouble in Kashmir and its withdrawal of hostilities in Kargil sector can be taken up a tactical in face of international pressure.

Inquiry committee to probe Kargil conflict set up On July 24, 1999, the government set-up a 4-member non-statutory inquiry committee, headed by noted defence analyst K Subrahmaniam, to review the events that led to Pakistani incursions in Kargil. Other members of the panel are Lt Gen K K Hazari (retd), noted journalist B G Verghese and national security council secretary Satish Chandra.

The panel would also recommend requisite measures to safeguard national security against such lapses as took place in Kargil.

However, the Opposition parties and experts from various fields have dubbed the inquiry committee as merely an eyewash.

(Also see Cover Story page 149)

Economic News

World Bank lending to India declines

Under pressure from the US and its allies over the Pokhran nuclear tests, World Bank lending to India registered a massive decline from \$ 1,068 million in 1998 to \$ 400 million for the fiscal 1999.

The International Development Association (IDA) lending to India also declined sharply from \$ 1073 million in 1998 to \$ 654 million for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999.

Lending from the two international agencies put together showed a decline of a whopping \$ 1,087 million between 1998 and 1999. The two are associate institutions.

In fiscal 1999, the Bank and IDA commitments to India were for a total \$ 1,054 million. By contrast, in 1998, the World Bank and IDA lendings to India totalled \$ 2,141 million.

Under its charter, the Bank is an apolitical body deciding on projects without political influence brought to bear by member-States. However, the figures show the gap between theory and reality.

DISASTERS

More than 400 die in a major rail mishap

ON August 2, 1999, a major tragedy took place when the speeding Brahmaputra Mail collided head-on with the Awadh Assam Express at Gaisal station in North Bengal. More than 400 people, mostly security personnel, died in the accident. This was the sixth major railway tragedy in 1999, and the worst in history of Indian railways. The worst part was that the tragedy took place on a double track route.

Due to a human error, which apparently took place about 17 km north of the scene of accident, in the vicinity of Kishengunj station in Bihar, the Awadh express was put on to the wrong track and the elaborate safety rules that should have been followed, and are explicitly stated in manuals, were thrown into the winds from this point onwards.

The driver of Awadh express covered 17 km at a great speed and was noticed by at least 14 other signalling and station staff, but no one bothered to alert him. It is also strange that the driver of Awadh express did not notice that he was on the wrong track. Being a regular on the track he should have noticed, not just on the basis of memory but the fact that the signal lights on this track were all looking the other way.

ELECTIONS

Poll Schedule

ON August 3, 1999, the Election Commission announced a revised Lok Sabha poll schedule spread over five

Do You Know...

India's literacy rate has increased to 62 per cent, recording an increase of 10 per cent since the last census in 1991, according to the national sample survey. Literacy in West Bengal has shot up from 58 to 72 per cent.

phases from September 5 to October 3, 1999. The original schedule announced on July 11 clashed with festivals and posed administrative and logistic problems.

The poll dates will now be September 5, 11, 18, 25 and October 3. Counting will begin on October 6 instead of October 5. The earlier schedule was September 4, 11, 17, 24 and October 1.

The Commission also announced that simultaneous Assembly elections will be held in Karnataka, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Arunachal Pradesh. Assembly bye-elections would be held in eight States with the election process expected to be over by October 10.

While Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, J & K, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh will have a three-day poll, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu will vote in two phases. All other States and Union Territories will go the polls in a single phase.

The five-day election, spread over four weeks, was necessitated not only by the extra-ordinary situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir but also due to seasonal factors.

The forthcoming elections are dubbed as India's longest elections.

Meanwhile, the Union Cabinet has approved the promulgation of an ordinance to enable Kashmiri migrants to cast their vote by postal ballot in coming Lok Sabha elections. The ordinance will amend the Representation of People Act, 1951. Similar ordinances were passed before 1996 and 1998 polls also.

INDIA-USA

A big boost to ties

India and United States look set to enter a 'qualitatively new relationship' in post-Kargil era. This new breakthrough

Do You Know...

The Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for various Kharif crops, including paddy, pulses, oilseeds and cotton, have been increased by Rs 25 to Rs 145. The MSP for paddy (common variety) is now Rs 490 per quintal while for jowar, bajra, maize and ragi the MSP has been increased to Rs 415 per quintal, up from Rs 390 fixed last year

New System for Rating Foreign Banks

The Reserve Bank of India has turned the heat on foreign banks operating in India. The Central Bank has decided to rate foreign banks on a system called CACS (Capital adequacy, Asset quality, Compliance and Systems). The rating model is to be operationalised during the inspection cycle beginning July 1999.

The rating system marks a departure from the CAMELS model Capital adequacy, Asset quality, Management, Earnings, Liquidity and Systems—used for State-run banks.

Based on the composite ratings, a foreign bank will be rated from 'A' to 'D' in descending order of performance, and they will imply the following:

A: the bank is sound in every respect and gives no cause for supervisory concern;

B: the bank is fundamentally sound and its operations are satisfactory. However, there are modest weaknesses and for which supervisory responses is limited to minor adjustments;

C: the bank exhibits a combination of financial, operational or compliance weaknesses ranging from the moderately severe to unsatisfactory. Failure may only be a remote possibility, but the bank gives cause for supervisory concern and requires more than normal supervision to tackle deficiencies; and

D: the bank has serious financial, operational and managerial weaknesses; it warrants a definite plan for corrective action. The bank requires close supervisory monitoring and financial surveillance. In critical cases that makes probability of failure high in the immediate future, the bank would require urgent aid from its shareholders or financial assistance from other sources to avoid liquidation or restructuring.

came after a meeting between Indian External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh and US Secretary of State Madeline Albright on sidelines of ARF meeting at Singapore.

The discussion between the two leaders was the first since they met exactly a year ago on the sidelines of the same Asian Regional Forum meeting in Manila, in the aftermath of India's nuclear tests. That meeting was a "frosty" one, where Albright made no bones about expressing America's disapprobation on New Delhi's nuclear adventure. But, this one was a "cordial" one.

After Jaswant Singh briefed Albright on Kargil, Albright said US fully understood how the Kargil intrusions 'damaged the Lahore process'.

Later, US asked Pakistan to withdraw its troops from remaining areas of Kargil, immediately stop acts of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and push for the "Lahore process" while emphasising the need for "some movement" on the Kashmir issue.

During the meeting, Mr Singh, however, made it clear that the resumption of Indo-Pak dialogue

depended on the stoppage of cross-border terrorism by Pakistan and Islamabad undoing the damage caused to mutual trust by its actions in Kargil.

Albright, firmly ruled out any US role in resolving Indo-Pak issues.

India has also been invited by the US to become a permanent member of the Core Group on Initiative on Community of Democracies, a new forum floated by the US for engaging the international community against terrorism and dictatorship. The two sides would enter into discussions on a joint campaign against terrorism, after considerable identity of views was found on how terrorism and fundamentalism could threaten national interests of both countries.

While US did raise the issue of signing of CTBT, Jaswant Singh made clear that only a new government would be able to decide on signing the CTBT. However, he declared that the NPT would be a "no-entry zone".

Meanwhile, the US Congress has authorised President Bill Clinton to waive for one more year the sanctions imposed on India and Pakistan after the two

countries conducted nuclear tests in May, 1998.

The sanctions were, waived for one year in April 1998 also, in an effort to encourage India and Pakistan to sign Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Also, the US announced that it would now pursue separate policies for India and Pakistan and would not play one against the other. "Central" to the new Indo-American ties "will be economic relationship" and that would depend on India's economic reforms.

INDIA-JAPAN

Ties back towards normalisation

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh's meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Kamura in Singapore cleared much of the misunderstanding which had dragged the relations between two nations since India's nuclear tests in 1998.

India and Japan are now considering closer defence cooperation and a security dialogue.

Kamura suggested that trust and understanding should be maintained through regular ministerial meetings.

Japan's severe criticism of India's nuclear tests and its offer in 1998 to play host to India and Pakistan for talks on Kashmir had led to severe strains in the relationship.

Initially, India took Japan's strong feelings in its stride, realising Japan was the only country to have experienced the horrors of nuclear holocaust. However, when Japan offered itself as a venue for Indo-Pak talks, New Delhi, always sensitive to third party interference on Kashmir, was enraged, and matters went from bad to worse.

Do You Know...

The top advertiser on TV for 1998 was Hindustan Lever Ltd, having spent Rs 359 crore for the year. Colgate Palmolive was second, with a TV budget of Rs 57 crore followed by Nestle with Rs 54 crore. The top product advertised on TV was soap and toothpaste, with budgets of Rs 143 and Rs 140 crore respectively.

Economic News

Indian Companies in Forbes Top

Four Indian Companies—State Bank of India (SBI), Bharat Petroleum, Oil and Natural Gas (ONGC) and Steel Authority of India (SAIL)—have figured in the latest ranking of the top 800 international companies by Forbes magazine based on their revenue.

SBI, along with Indian Oil Corporation, Housing Development Finance Corporation and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd are rated among the top 100 companies worldwide for investment.

SBI, with revenues of \$ 5,324 million is rated 438th. Topping the list is Daimler Chrysler of Germany (\$ 146,472 million). The next three companies are from Japan—Mitsui and Co (\$1,09,198 million), Itochu (\$ 1,08,573 million) and Toyota Motor (\$ 99,580 million).

INDIA-NAMIBIA

Two pacts signed

TWO bilateral agreements were signed by India and Namibia during the visit of the Namibian President Dr Sam Nujoma.

The two agreements include one on extending \$ 5 million Exim Bank line of credit to Namibia and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in non-conventional energy

During the visit, Namibia called the Pakistani action in Kargil 'a naked aggression' and also backed India's candidature for a permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council

Dr Sam Nujoma occupies a special place in India because South West African Peoples' Organisation (SWAPO) led by him during Namibia's struggle for independence was recognised as the sole representative of the Namibian people by India. After Namibia's independence from South Africa in 1990, India has provided technical assistance in numerous areas.

The two countries also agreed to explore the possibility of cooperation in the defence and agriculture sectors.

The Foreign Minister of Namibia Theo-Ben Guriab, who visited India in June, 1999, asked India to use Namibia as a gateway to markets in Africa, Western Europe and North America.

INDIA-BANGLADESH

Transit passage for goods granted

THE Bangladesh government has approved in principle a proposal for transshipment of Indian goods through Bangladesh territory.

The government said a panel "would examine in detail the proposal for

movement of Indian goods from one part to another part of India by Bangladeshi transport, using the land routes of Bangladesh, giving priority to Bangladesh's economic interest".

Bangladesh's grant of transshipment facilities is a major step forward towards creating a regime of free goods movement within South Asia. This is one of prerequisites for the South Asia Free Trade Agreement proposed by India as part of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

INDIA-IRAQ

Trade deal despite UN sanctions

ON July 30, 1999, India signed a trade deal with Iraq to grant a 25 million dollar loan to Iraq to enable it to buy 1000 Indian buses. India also negotiated agreement for agricultural products and electricity projects, to be paid for under the UN oil-for-food programme.

However, the agreement resulted in lots of controversy, with the USA asking India to explain an apparent violation of the nine-year old UN trade sanctions against Baghdad, which were imposed following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq.

Any credit to Iraq contravenes UN Council resolutions. India, however, clarified later that the agreement will be implemented only after permission from the UN Security Council. Similar agreements have been signed by Russia and China too but have not been implemented till the UN Security Council gives permission for the same.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Assembly dissolved

THE Arunachal Pradesh assembly was dissolved on July 27, 1999, about 8

months ahead of its term, on the recommendation of the Mukut Mithi cabinet, to enable simultaneous polls along with the coming Lok Sabha elections.

The decision to hold simultaneous polls was taken to minimise expenditure as the tenure of the assembly would expire in March, 2000.

KARNATAKA

House dissolved following split in ruling JD

ON July 22, 1999, in a day of dramatic development, the Karnataka Governor dissolved the State Assembly on recommendation of the Chief Minister J.H. Patel.

The Chief Minister's action was perceived as a master-stroke that pre-empted a move by the Dewe Gowda loyalists to test the strength of the government on the floor of the House.

The move followed a split in the Janata Dal following sharp differences over the issue of alliance with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Elections for the Assembly seats will now be held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha elections in September, 1999. Mr Patel will continue as the caretaker Chief Minister till that time.

HARYANA

Chautala becomes CM

ON July 24, 1999, the Indian National Lok Dal President Om Prakash Chautala was sworn in as the 17th Chief Minister of Haryana. Mr Chautala has become the Chief Minister for the fourth time.

Later, Mr Chautala proved his majority in the Assembly with support of 53 MLAs—22 INLD, 17 HVP(D), 10 BJP and six independents. Mr Chautala heads the INLD-Haryana Vikas Party(D) coalition government with the BJP supporting it from outside.

Do You Know...

The Kwazulu Natal Law Society in Africa has apologised posthumously to Mahatma Gandhi for opposing his 1894 application to become a lawyer for being a non-white.

The formation of a new government came in wake of resignation of HVP government led by Mr Bansi Lal on July 21, just before the commencement of the assembly session convened to enable his government to seek a no-confidence vote.

Mr Bansi Lal's trouble started on June 22 when the BJP withdrew its support reducing his government to a minority. However, the Chief Minister proved his majority in the assembly on June 25 with the Congress support. Mr Bansi Lal had then assured the Congress that he would abide by advice of Congress President Sonia Gandhi.

Later, he refused to dissolve the Assembly as desired by Ms Gandhi, leading to Congress withdrawing support on July 14.

NAGALAND

Ceasefire extended by one year

THE ongoing ceasefire in Nagaland was extended by an year on July 28, 1999, following an agreement between the Union government and the National Socialist Council (NSCN-IM). The present ceasefire agreement was to expire on July 31.

This announcement has brightened the chances of talks on substantive issues between the two sides, after the completion of the ensuing Lok Sabha elections.

The Centre had first announced a three-month long ceasefire in Nagaland with the NSCN(IM) from August 1997 during Mr I.K. Gujral's stint as Prime Minister. It was extended periodically for three months three times before the Vajpayee government clinched a deal with the NSCN(IM) to extend the agreement for one year in August 1998.

PATENTS CONTROVERSY

More plants patented

A US firm has patented *Karela* (bitter-*Agourd*), *jamun* (*syzygium cumini*) and *brinjal* for anti-diabetic properties despite their use being mentioned in several Indian texts.

There has been a mad rush by MNCs to collect patents on germplasms of plant varieties located in less-developed countries. Once patented, these varieties become the property of patent holder, until the time the patent expires. Under

the EMR (Exclusive Marketing Rights) it would no longer be necessary for patent holder to apply separately to each country for patent rights. The irony of such patenting is that patented products processed by foreign countries would now have to be purchased by Indians who are used to getting these free in nature. The most talked about case of such bio-piracy has been the patenting of *neem* tree and *haldi*. However, in case of *haldi*, the US medical school was forced to revoke patent on its use for healing wounds in 1987 after Indian protest.

POLITICAL

Thackeray loses right to vote

SHIV Sena supremo Bal Thackeray has been disenfranchised for six years.

The decision was taken by the commission after the Supreme Court upheld an order of the Mumbai High Court finding Mr Thackeray guilty of inciting hatred among communities during an election speech.

As per the law, President K.R. Narayanan had referred the Supreme Court order to the commission to decide on the quantum of penalty to be imposed on Mr Thackeray.

Now, Mr Thackeray will not be entitled to vote in any election till the expiry of the six-year period.

The order of the EC disenfranchising Mr Thackeray will be effective from December 11, 1995.

The EC order pertains to certain electoral malpractices committed by Mr Thackeray and Yashwant Prabhu in the 1987 Vile Parle assembly by-elections where they made inflammatory speeches.

The Bombay High Court in 1991, had held them guilty of misusing religion during campaign. While Mr Prabhu was disqualified for six years on the basis of the High Court verdict, the Sena appealed against the verdict in the Supreme Court which in 1995 held Mr Thackeray guilty.

Lok Shakti, Samata merge with JD group

IN a significant electoral development, the Lok Shakti and the Samata Party have decided to merge with Sharad Yadav-J.H. Patel faction of the Janata Dal, which split on July 21, 1999 following sharp differences over the issue of alliance

with BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Announcing the merger decision, the presidents of the three parties—Sharad Yadav (JD), George Fernandes (Samata) and Ramakrishna Hegde (Lok Shakti)—said the objective was to unitedly fight the forthcoming parliamentary elections as part of the NDA. They said it was an outcome of efforts over the last several months to unify these parties which belonged to the erstwhile *Janata Parivaar*.

The decision to merge was taken in the face of stiff opposition in the Janata Dal Political Affairs Committee (PAC). The JD faction led by former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, along with Jaipal Reddy and Madhu Dandavate, has claimed that they are the "real Janata Dal".

This faction re-elected Mr Gowda as the party president after disqualifying Mr Yadav.

The Janata Dal has now split in two with the Election Commission recognising the two factions as Janata Dal (United) led by Mr Sharad Yadav—and Janata Dal (Secular) led by Mr H.D. Deve Gowda. The "Chakra" symbol of Janata Dal has been frozen.

TELECOM

The troubled telecom policy

ON July 7, 1999 the Union Cabinet cleared the telecom package to give relief to the private telecom services operators. The package was to be effective from August 1, 1999 and was to allow all cellular, basic, paging and value-added service operators to migrate from licence fee system to revenue sharing system. This measure has been taken up to provide relief to the service providers who were hit hard by the poor demand for services.

The main highlights of the package are:

- Integration of licences into NTP will be

prospective to be decided by the Government.

- A further upfront payment of 15 per cent of the arrears of licence fees will have to be made on or before August 16, 1999 thereby totalling to 35 per cent of the dues up to July 31, 1999.
- Lock in period of five years from the date of the licence agreement in respect of the present share holders.
- Relief to be provided to the licencees by extending the period of their licences from the present 10 years to 20 years from the date of existing licence agreement.
- Cut off date for change over to the NTP, 1999 regime shall be August 1, 1999.
- Package will have to be accepted *in toto* by 1994 licencees for withdrawal of all legal proceedings against them.

However, the package could not be implemented as scheduled following objection by all Opposition parties, the President and the Election Commission. A PIL in the Delhi High Court finally resulted in stay on further implementation. Ultimately, the court decided that implementation of the package can be allowed subject to its review by the new Parliament.

SCANDALS

Hawala scandal

FORMER Union Minister and senior Congress leader Balram Jakhar has been acquitted by a city court of his involvement in the multicore Jain hawala case, after the prosecution failed to prove any case against him.

The CBI had alleged that Balram Jakhar had obtained pecuniary advantage from the Jain brothers of Rs 89,928 in form of air-tickets for his wife Rameshwari Jakhar and her friend Kulwant Kaur Sidhu for their journey abroad in April 1989. It was alleged that the tickets were booked by Bhilai Engineering Corporation (a Jain firm) through Indica Travels.

The court, however, rejected the contention as there were no records to prove the allegations. It held that the case was entirely based on documentary and circumstantial evidence and there was no direct evidence to prove the case against the accused.

The court also held that mere booking of air-tickets was not a criminal offence. Also the fact that Balram Jakhar was known to the Jain Brothers was not a criminal act.

SC exonerates Satish Sharma

IN a rare judgement, the Supreme Court has held that its earlier decision, holding former Union Petroleum Minister Satish Sharma guilty of criminal breach of trust and ordering him to pay Rs 50 lakh as damages for misusing power to allot petrol pumps and gas dealerships from the discretionary quota, had "resulted in a serious miscarriage of justice".

The 124-page verdict, pronounced by Justice Saghir Ahmad, said: "We are of the opinion that there was no case made out against the petitioner for any case being registered against him on the basis of the judgement passed by this court nor was there any occasion to direct an investigation by the CBI in that case."

Allowing review on Mr Sharma's petition, the court also held that the direction to investigate "any other offence" was wholly erroneous and cannot be sustained. "Obviously, the direction for investigation can be given only if an offence is, *prima facie*, found to have been committed or a person's involvement is *prima facie* established, but a direction to the CBI to investigate whether any person has committed an offence or not cannot be legally given", the court added.

Underscoring the need to maintain the rule of accountability and liability as also transparency in executive action where grant of largess is concerned, the court, however, said, "The present case is being decided on its own peculiar facts and features in which the finding as to the commission of tort or misfeasance recorded by this court or the award of exemplary...cannot be sustained."

Holding that the earlier directions were in complete negation of the law laid down consistently by the apex court in several cases, the court said the powers vested in the Supreme Court (Article 32) and High Courts (Article 226) are plenary powers which are not "fettered by any legal constraints".

Do You Know...

Italy's Fiat turned 100 years old on July 11, 1999. Its chairman Gianni Agnelli, grandson of the founder Giovanni Agnelli, unveiled its best-selling model, the new Punto, to mark the occasion.

Short Notes on International News

CHINA-TAIWAN

China warns Taiwan of invasion

TAIWANESE President Lee-Teng Hui angered Beijing when he sought to redefine relations between China and Taiwan as those between two States.

This prompted China to restate its right to unify the country by force. China's ruling Communist party said the reunification of Taiwan with mainland was a 'historical task' and anyone who dared to challenge the 'one-China' principle is doomed to fail. China also warned Taiwan of invasion if the island declared independence.

The remarks of Lee saying that Taiwan could embrace only a democratic China caused further tension. In turn, Chinese foreign ministry declared that China did not recognise Lee as Taiwan's President. China also began military exercises near the Taiwan strait.

The closest the two sides have come in recent years to a military confrontation was in March 1996 when President Clinton of USA had sent a naval battle-group to the Taiwan straits to deter Beijing's war games.

Those exercises followed what China regarded as Lee's provocative efforts to raise Taiwan's international profile, notably with a 1995 trip to the US.

Washington broke off diplomatic tie with Taipei (capital of Taiwan) in favour of Beijing in 1979, but has never stated whether it would defend Taiwan in event of a Chinese attack and continues to sell it defensive weapons.

China and Taiwan have been governed separately since the Nationalist Army of Chiang Kai-Shek fled to the island of Taiwan after losing a bitter civil war to Mao Zedong's communists on the mainland.

(Also see Special Feature on page 122)

Asia to have 64 m net users

According to a study published by the Hong Kong-based Goldman Sachs Investment Research, the number of internet users in Asia is forecast to increase to 64 million by 2003. This will be a 40 per cent Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR). This is twice as much as the growth expected in the US during the same period.

The study also forecasts that Asia would generate around \$ 32 billion in e-commerce sales and help Net advertising to become a \$ 1.5 billion industry by 2004.

The report predicted that by 2003 China, South Korea, India and Australia would represent 70 per cent of all Asia-Pacific Net users.

Asia's internet scene, the report says, lags behind US by two-three years, but the gap is bridging rapidly.

MIDDLE EAST

15-month deadline for peace

AFTER Ehud Barak was sworn in as Israel's new Prime Minister on July 6, 1999, he promised to launch parallel peace negotiations with the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon and to strengthen ties with the two States at peace with Israel—Egypt and Jordan.

Barak met Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, both of whom reaffirmed their commitment to end a century of conflict between their peoples.

Barak committed to carry out the Wye Peace accord, but said that he would like to delay some elements of the accord until the two sides negotiate a so-called final status agreement covering the permanent borders and powers of the Palestinian land. Arafat insisted that Israel halt all construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories where Palestinians hope to create a State of their own.

The Wye accord was signed in October 1998 by Barak's headline predecessor Benjamin Netanyahu who later suspended the deal in December, 1998, accusing the Palestinians of ignoring their end of bargain.

Barak and US President Bill Clinton have set a timetable of 15 months to achieve comprehensive peace in the Middle East. They have agreed to meet once in four months to clinch peace by the time President Clinton leaves office in January 2001. This new breakthrough came during Barak's visit to US.

Israel has said it was also ready to revive talks with Syria at the point they were broke off in February 1996; a key condition laid down by Damascus.

Israel's then labour government had agreed in principle to withdraw from occupied Golan Heights. But no agreement was concluded on the scope of the pull back or the security and other arrangements Syria was willing to offer in exchange for the Golan Heights.

Golan Heights were seized by Israel in 1967 war and annexed in 1981.

Barak has indicated a willingness to cede most Golan, if not all of the territory, in exchange for a peace accord with significant security guarantees.

Barak has said that peace with Syria depended on what Syrian President Hafez Assad was willing to do in return for an Israeli withdrawal from Golan.

Barak also wants to withdraw Israeli troops from south Lebanon within an year, as a part of an overall deal with Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon.

But, Barak told President Clinton that Israel would not return to the pre-1967 lines—its boundaries before capturing the West Bank Gaza and Golan Heights in the Middle East war in 1967.

PAKISTAN

Problems after Kargil

PAKISTAN'S misadventure in Kargil is likely to have far-reaching consequences for its internal, as well as external affairs. According to analysts, as Pakistan was virtually divided on religious, sectarian and ethnic lines, Kargil was aimed at uniting people in name of Kashmir. But Pakistan action in Kargil will boomerang as is evident from the reaction of militant organisations after the pull out of intruders from Kargil.

The fundamentalist Jammah-Islami held a "million march" in Lahore to berate

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for the Kargil fiasco. Jammāt accused Sharif of bowing to pressure from Washington and betraying Islam by undermining Muslim militants battling Indian rule in Kashmir.

The ethnic problem in Sindh and Baluchistan is becoming worse. Violent clashes between Sindhis and Mohajirs and the MQM factional fights have become frequent.

Arrests of journalists and closure of newspapers make regular news.

The economic situation in Pakistan is also not good. In fact, Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto has accused Sharif of destroying Pakistan's economy and has called for investigation into how money provided by International Monetary Fund (IMF) was being utilised.

CHINA

Religious sect banned

CHINESE government has banned a popular quasi-religious sect, Fahun Gong, saying it was an illegal organisation that cheats people and threatened social chaos.

Fahun Gong, a form of spiritual meditation mixed with Chinese mysticism and a conservative social doctrine says it has 100 million members. The government says it has two million. Whatever the figure, the group's boldness and quiet persistence of its followers has struck fear in the atheist ruling Communist party which has 60 million members.

The official Chinese news agency Xinhua has denounced the sect leader Li Hongzhi "as an evil person who has had an extremely disastrous effect on society". Hongzhi lives in exile in United States.

The group first shocked the government in April 1999, when 10,000 members staged a protest at Zhongnanhai to demand official respect for the organisation.

NUCLEAR WARFARE

China unveils neutron bomb technology

FOR the first time, on July 15, 1999, China announced publicly that it had mastered the technology to build a neutron bomb.

A neutron bomb is an enhanced radiation bomb designed to maximise

neutron radiation. It is lethal to all forms of life, but having a reduced blast, leaves building and infrastructure relatively undamaged.

China also slammed the US allegations that it stole US nuclear weapons and neutron bomb design secrets over past two decades. It also accused US of 'racial prejudice' saying it was capable of developing its own weapons programme.

In a 2500-word report issued by the State Council (Cabinet) in Beijing, China admitted the advance in technology 11 years after it first tested a neutron bomb in 1988.

Analysts say that report does not indicate a belated conversion to the need for greater transparency on nuclear matters, but rather a desire to vehemently rebut the recent Cox Committee report, issued by the US Congress, detailing at length the alleged inroads made by Chinese spying on US nuclear establishments.

China also justified the need to make nuclear missile advances in terms of keeping up with two Cold War superpowers in the US and the former Soviet Union. Since China had mastered atom bomb and hydrogen bomb technology "it was quite natural for China to master the neutron bomb technology".

Later, on July 27, China also claimed to have developed a complete system of long, medium and short-range nuclear missiles and other strategic weapons to fight in all types of warfare. It has now the capability of launching nuclear missiles from sea, by submarine or from land-based mobile launchers.

SRI LANKA

Tamil leader killed by suicide bomber

THE assassination of moderate Sri Lankan Tamil leader Neelam Tiruchevalam by a suspected Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) suicide bomber in Colombo was condemned by US, Human Rights Watch, the leading rights organisation in the US, Amnesty International, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and UN Human Rights Commissioner Mary Robinson.

Tiruchevalam was a respected academic and constitutional law expert,

director of the International Centre for Ethnic studies and a Member of Parliament, representing the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF). He has known as a defender of human rights who was in a search for solution to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. Dr Tiruchevalam had contributed to the devolution package formulated by Sri Lankan government, and the attack had come amidst speculation that the package, which the LTTE opposed, could be presented in Parliament soon.

US had already designated LTTE as a foreign terrorist organisation in 1997.

ASEAN

Diplomatic victory for India in the foreign ministers' meet

THE restraint exercised by India during the Kargil crisis, despite the public clamour for crossing the Line of Control (LoC), paved the way for a diplomatic victory during the deliberations of the foreign ministers at ASEAN meeting and later the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Singapore.

The first success came when the joint communique issued after the ASEAN Ministerial meeting on July 24 welcomed the agreement reached by India and Pakistan to end hostilities along LoC and urged both sides to resolve dispute through dialogue.

Later, when the US Secretary of State Madeline Albright emphasised the importance of Pakistan withdrawing from the remaining positions along the Kargil sector, she echoed what New Delhi had been asking Pakistan to do.

India also claimed victory at the end of the sixth ARF talks, which brought together 22 foreign ministers from South-east Asia and leading powers like US, Russia, China, Japan and Australia. India said that the talks had vindicated New Delhi's stand on number of issues, including cross-border terrorism, non-proliferation and disarmament.

In a clear endorsement of India's stand on cross-border terrorism, US asked ARF to serve as a 'regional rallying point' for effective global action to 'deter and disrupt terrorist networks and oppose those who support them'.

During the ARF talks, Indian External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh

offered to sign the protocol to a treaty to make South-East Asia a nuclear weapon-free zone.

Besides India, China is the only nuclear power to have made a similar announcement at Singapore.

India has already committed not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and not to use them against non-nuclear weapon States.

Analysts are of the opinion that if India sign the South-East Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ) treaty, India will be a step closer to its objective of international recognition as a nuclear power, as it will be first outside the five nuclear powers to do so.

Besides, India will win this recognition ahead of Pakistan which is not a member of or an invitee to the ARF.

South-East Asia thus might become only the fourth nuclear-free zone after Latin America, South Pacific and Africa.

YUGOSLAVIA

Serbs told to dump Milosevic

AFTER Yugoslav troops began withdrawing from Kosovo, the region seems involved in violence, anarchy and confusion. Fourteen Serb farmers were shot dead by gun-toting members of Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) under the very nose of NATO forces. The killing damaged the credibility of NATO which had promised full and equal protection to both Albanians and Serbs.

The massacre triggered exodus of Serbs which is the precise objective of KLA.

NATO forces had launched air strikes against Yugoslavia on March 25, 1999 which finally ended on June 10. The strikes were in protest against genocide being committed by Serbs on ethnic Albanians, who constitute 90 per cent of Kosovo's population.

At a summit of world leaders in Bosnian capital of Sarajevo, US and EU leaders called upon the people of Serbia to reject Slobodan Milosevic's "failed nationalism". EU leaders promised Belgrade a share in the Balkan reconstruction bonanza if it accepted the principles of "stability pact" signed by regional leaders in June, 1999 in Germany.

But Yugoslavia dismissed the Balkan reconstruction summit as "NATO meeting".

MOROCCO

King Hassan dead

MOOROCCO'S 70-year old King Hassan died on July 21, 1999, after a heart attack. His eldest son Mohammed Bin Hassan, 36, was later enthroned in a swift and smooth succession.

King Hassan was the longest reigning Arab monarch who ruled the North African country for 38 years. The King was buried in Rabat at the Mohammed V Mausoleum named after his father who died in 1961.

Foreign leaders present at the funeral paid tributes to King Hassan's contribution to Middle East peacekeeping.

IRAN

Pro-democracy protests by students

IRAN is again in the middle of another unrest. This time it is against the dictatorial rule of the *mullahs* or the religious leaders who have ruled Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution. This time also the students are in the forefront.

On July 16, 1999, the student demonstration over closing of a popular pro-reform newspaper erupted into bloody clashes. More than 1400 students were arrested by the security forces. Two students were reportedly killed in the police firing.

The Iranian government has accused foreign nations of backing the unrest, blaming the trouble of "counter-revolutionary" elements outside the country.

Under the strict version of Islamic law imposed after the 1979 revolution, conviction as a "counter-revolutionary" carries the death penalty.

The developments are said to be the most serious outcome of a strident power struggle between supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei's hardline clergymen and the allies of reformist President Mohammad Khatami, who wants to give Iranians more political freedom.

However, President Khatami distanced himself from the protesters and himself ordered the security forces to put an end to the unauthorised demonstrations.

INDONESIA

Election results endorsed

ON August 3, 1999, Indonesian President B.J. Habibie unilaterally endorsed the results of a landmark national election held on June 7, 1999, breaking a turbulent post-election impasse and clearing the way for the selection of the new President in November.

Mr Habibie, whose ruling Golkar party finished second in the elections, took matters into his own hands after the national Election Commission—known by the Indonesian acronym KPV—twice failed to approve the vote-count.

The June elections were Indonesia's first open parliamentary polls since 1955.

The KPV had failed twice to secure the two-thirds majority of its 53 members because representatives of some 26 small political parties, that did not win seats in the Parliament, refused to accept the results.

The smaller parties cited more than 100,000 alleged instances of fraud and irregularities despite overwhelming agreement by foreign and domestic observers that the polls were held free and fair.

As expected, opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri's Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle easily won the ballot with nearly 34 per cent of the vote, followed by Golkar with 22 per cent vote.

RUSSIA

Yeltsin fires PM, once again

ON August 9, 1999, President Boris Yeltsin fired his third cabinet in a year, replacing a loyalist Premier Sergei Stepashin with the head of the Russia's security service, Mr Vladimir Putin, whom Yeltsin also wants to succeed him as President next year.

46-year-old Putin had been appointed head of Russia's Federal Security Services, the main Russian successor to the Soviet-era KGB, in July 1998. A native of Saint Petersburg, he is seen by political analysts as a close ally of economy reform Chief Anatoly Chubais.

Mr Stepashin hinted that the turbulent realm of Kremlin politics was behind his removal.

Current General Knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

NDA: National Democratic Alliance

TRIMS: Trade Related Investment Measures

DAYS

International Day of Families

May 15 is observed as the International Day of Families, to increase awareness of family issues. The theme for 1999 is 'Families for all ages'.

AWARDS

Paulos Mar Gregorios Award, 1999

P. V. Verghese Kurien, architect of India's white revolution, has been selected for the Paulos Mar Gregorios Award, 1999 in recognition of his pioneering work in the areas of community-based development, rural development and cooperative movement.

K. Nayudu Award, 1998-99

Former Indian captain Polly Umrigar is the recipient of the award.

UNESCO Literacy Award, 1999

India's National Literacy Mission has won the UNESCO's Noma Literacy Prize for 1999.

National Film Awards, 1999

Maammoth was adjudged the Best Feature Film in Hindi and swept many categories in the National Film Awards. *Shabana Azmi*—Best Actress Award, *Rajeev Abhyankar*—best male playback singer, *Renu Saluja*—best editing, *Vishal Bhardwaj*—best music director, *Javed Akhtar*—best lyrics.

Swarna Kamal for best feature film. *Shyam Benegal's Samar*

Nargis Dutt Award for best feature film on National Integration: *Alakh*

Best popular film providing wholesome entertainment: *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*

Best non-feature film award: Sanjay Kak's *In the Forest Hangs a Bridge*

Best first non-feature film: Rajeev Raj's *Repentance* (Malayalam)

Best Actor: Ajay Devgan *Zakhm* and Mammootty for his lead role in the film *Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar*

Best Supporting actor: Manoj Bajpai *Satya*

Best Supporting actress: Suhasini Mukay, *Hu Tu Tu*

Best female playback singer: Alka Yagnik, *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*

Best cinematography, best audiography: *Dil Se*

Best Special Effects: *Jaan*

Best direction: Rajeevnath, *Janani* (Malayalam)

BOOKS

Bill and Hillary: The Marriage

The book, published in the US, alleges that Hillary Clinton had an affair with her law partner Vince Foster, who later committed suicide.

COMMITTEES

Subrahmanyam Committee

The government has appointed this committee to review the events leading to the Kargil conflict and recommend suitable measures to safeguard national security against such armed intrusions. It will be chaired by K. Subrahmanyam. Other members are I. T. Gen (retd), K. K. Hazari, B. G. Verghese and Satish Chandra as its member secretary.

CONFERENCES

UNISPACE III

The third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of

Outer Space (UNISPACE III) was held in Vienna, Austria from July 19 to 30, 1999. Creating a blueprint for the peaceful uses of outer space in the 21st century was the key objective of the Conference.

For nearly forty years the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) has helped shape the world's policies regarding the development and uses of space technology. The UN and its agencies are paying particular attention to the role they can play in promoting the utilisation of space science and technology for sustainable development, while establishing partnerships with space-related industry and non-governmental organisations. In two previous international conferences held in 1968 and 1982, Member States were successful in creating and strengthening the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, which assists nations in using space technology for economic, social and cultural development.

UNISPACE III adopted the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan. This would set out the UN's vision for the peaceful uses of space in the 21st Century. As mankind ventures further and ever more frequently into space, the United Nations recognises that the protection of the space environment and its peaceful uses on behalf of all humanity is of paramount importance. The Declaration and Action Plan is a proactive, comprehensive, worldwide environmental protection programme for using space applications for human security and welfare, advancing the scientific knowledge of space, protecting the space environment, enhancing education and training opportunities and ensuring public awareness of the

importance of space activities; strengthening and repositioning space activities in the United Nations system and the promotion of international cooperation.

EDUCATION

Army Institute of Law Inaugurated

The Army Institute of Law (AIL) was inaugurated at Patiala on July 15, 1999. The institute is another addition to the chain of vocational institutes started by the Army to provide education to wards of Army personnel. The institute, which is affiliated to Punjab University, Patiala, will be shifted to Mohali once the permanent structure comes up. It will run a five-year LLB degree course as per the syllabus of the Bar Council of India. Later on, it will add additional courses, including Masters of Law and diplomas in taxation, criminology, labour laws, humanitarian and environmental laws.

The annual intake will be of 60 students, of which 80 per cent seats will be reserved for wards of Army personnel, 15 per cent for residents of Punjab and 5 per cent for candidates from all over the country. The eligibility for applying is class 12 with minimum 55% marks. There is an entrance test which will consist of General Knowledge, Reasoning and questions related to law matters, and English, followed by an interview.

AIL is equipped with modern facilities, including the Internet, computer laboratory, residential accommodation and extra-curricular activities. It will serve as a feeder institute to Judge Advocate General (JAG) Department of the Army. Under the Army Welfare Educational Scheme, institutes of engineering, business management and hotel management have already been set up. The AIL is the first such institute in the field of law.

PERSONS

Kumar, Rajendra

Legendary actor Rajendra Kumar, who

swayed the emotions of millions of cinegoers with his portrayals in *Dil Ek Mandir*, *Gehra Daag* and *Sangam*, died on July 12, 1999 at the age of 71 following a prolonged illness.

PLACES

Calcutta

The West Bengal Assembly has adopted a motion on July 20, 1999 changing Calcutta's name to *Kolkata*. The switch-over to the Bengali names from the ones handed down by the British received a hearty endorsement when the motion under rule 185, moved by all the parties, was put to voice vote by Speaker Hasim Abdul Halim.

PROJECTS

Sawalkote Hydro Project

A Norwegian consortium consisting of two major power companies, Statkraft Anlegg and Kvaverner Energy, has bagged the Rs 4,000 crore contract to execute the 600 MW Sawalkote hydroelectric power project in Jammu and Kashmir.

The State-owned Power Development Corporation (PDC) will hold 15 per cent equity stake in the project, while the rest 85 per cent would be held by the Norwegian consortium. Both rupee and foreign debt funds would be organized by the Norwegian consortium. The J & K government would provide State guarantees to support these debt funds.

The project is a run of the river scheme on Chenab and would be constructed near Ramban. The Sawalkote venture includes construction of 185 metres high concrete diversion dam, 8.6 km long tunnel and a surface power house. The power house, with an installed capacity of 600 MW at an operating head of 185 metres, would generate 4114 million units of energy annually.

RESEARCH

Scientists create cancer cells

American scientists, working at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston, have been able to transform normal human cells into

cancerous cells by manipulating a few genes and some biochemical pathways.

To become cancerous, cells accumulate genetic mutations that eventually result in their catastrophic ability to keep dividing without end.

For some time, researchers have been able to make mouse cells tumorigenic by introducing a few known genes. However, human cells had not been manipulated so far. Now, after 15 years of hard work, the scientists claim that they have been able to transform human cells for the first time in the world.

One of the three proteins the researchers introduced into the human cells is the enzyme telomerase, which is involved in maintaining the ends of chromosomes. This success with human cells highlights the importance of a functional telomerase for human cells to become tumorigenic.

SPACE

Search for water on moon

Neil Armstrong set foot on moon on July 20, 1969. The thirtieth anniversary of the event was observed this year.

Between 1969 and 1972, 12 men left their footprints in lunar dust, spending nearly 80 hours on foot or aboard a lunar jeep. They brought back 400 kilograms of moon rocks. On December 14, 1972, Eugene Cernan and Harrison "Jack" Schmitt were the last astronauts on the moon.

Lunar exploration determined that the moon is basically made up of volcanic material, that its structure is similar to Earth's, and that a metallic core lying at its centre is 15 times smaller than that of Earth.

Now and again, lunar settlement projects were proposed, either for scientific advancement or to serve as launch platforms for more ambitious interplanetary missions.

All these projects, however, stumbled on a major handicap: the lack of water.

Space scientists examined data from a lunar probe for signs of water on the moon after the spacecraft *Lunar*

Prospector was successfully crashed on to the surface of the moon's South Pole.

But early indications claim that the hoped-for water had failed to materialise.

Noted British astronomer Patrick Moore had already dismissed any chance of success for the experiment.

Send your name to Mars

Under its Mars exploration endeavours, NASA has invited people to send their names to Mars on the *Mars Surveyor 2001 Lander*. People can log in on the web-site and get a certificate to leave an indelible mark on the planet.

<http://spacekids.hq.nasa.gov/2001> is a brainchild of NASA to "collect several million names" to be sent to Mars on a CD-ROM. The CD will be mounted on the planet on a hardware that can be logged into, may be by some other life form from a galaxy far, far away, when *Surveyor 2001 Lander*, scheduled to be launched on April 10, 2001, reaches Mars on January 22, 2002.

Continuing the *Surveyor* programme, *2001 Lander* will carry an imager to take pictures of the Martian terrain as it will descend on the planet surface. Besides providing images for geological analyses and monitoring of earlier launched probes, the spacecraft, fitted with various instruments, will also give an insight into the possibility of future human missions to Mars.

The hardware used in the *Lander* will also be used for a "demonstration test of rocket propellant production using gases in the Martian atmosphere". There are other instruments which will throw light on the soil, terrain and surface radiation environment of the planet.

Cartosat-1: New satellite for surveillance

India's military, which was let down by the inability of Indian satellites to spot the intruders in Kargil, expects to

bolster its surveillance capabilities with *Cartosat-1*, the first of a new series of earth imaging satellites with advanced equipment. It is proposed to be launched in year 2000.

With a price-tag of Rs 250 crore, *Cartosat-1* is the most expensive among the satellites built so far, by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Although ISRO says that *Cartosat-1* is not a spy satellite in the true sense, and that it is intended for cartographic applications by town planners, the scientists admit that the high-resolution, stereoscopic images obtained by the satellite will be of great use to the armed forces.

India is one of a handful of countries with highly successful remote sensing programmes. But, even the best of these satellites cannot identify objects on the ground less than five metres in size. On the other hand, *Cartosat-1*, carrying two panchromatic, or black and white, cameras will provide better than 2.5-metre spatial resolution with a steerable swatch of 30 kilometres. Resolution is a measure of imagery sharpness and ground features as small as a beach umbrella can be distinguished in *Cartosat* imagery.

MISCELLANY

Two new sanctuaries in Goa

On June 9, 1999, Governor of Goa, Lt Gen (retd) J.F.R. Jacob, notified two new wildlife sanctuaries—*Madel* and *Netravali*—which link the existing sanctuaries with each other and thereby create an unbroken forest corridor from the southern end of Maharashtra to the northern end of Karnataka.

The 208.48 sq km *Madel* sanctuary in Sattari taluka now links the reserve forests of *Amboli* in Sawantwadi taluka with the *Bhagwan Mahaveer* wildlifed sanctuary in Sanguem taluka.

The 211.05 sq km *Netravali* sanctuary in Sanguem taluka in south Goa links the *Bhagwan Mahaveer*

wildlife sanctuary to *Cotigao* wildlife sanctuary in Canacona taluka. With this, Goa has moved closer to enforcing an Integrated Protected Area Network (IPAN)

Tricolour for para-military forces

The flag code of India has been amended to provide for the display of the National Flag in the funerals of para-military personnel killed in terrorist attacks.

As per the original code, the National Flag could not be used as a drapery in any form whatsoever except in State or military funerals. However, now para 5.1 mentioned in Section V of the Flag code has been amended. Under the amendment the National Flag can now be used as a drapery in Central para-military personnels' funerals along with the earlier mentioned State and military funerals.

12th Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Educational Publishers in India

The 12th Annual General body meeting and the Distinguished Publishers Educational awards giving ceremony of the Federation of Educational Publishers in India, for the year 1999, was held at the India International Centre, New Delhi, on Saturday August 7, 1999.

Prof Vijay K. Malhotra, member of Parliament, was the Chief Guest. Prof (Dr) Jagdish Mukhi (Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly) was the guest of honour.

Among those who were awarded Distinguished Publisher award 1999 were : Mr Sanjib Bose (Bharati Bhavan Publishers) and Mr Anand Bhushan (Pitambar Publishing Co. Pvt Ltd), Mr C.M. Chawla (UBSPD) and Mr Dinesh Goyal (Goyal Overseas) received the Export Promotion award, 1999.

Mr H.S. Paul, Director Advertising, the COMPETITION MASTER was a special invitee.

Prof Rajinder S. Dhillon is the President of the Federation.

AWARDS ROUND-UP

Due to mix-up in the awards round-up latest winners of certain awards were not carried in the August '99 issue. We give below the missing information.

The mistake is regretted

--Editor

B.D. Goenka Award, 1998: H.K. Dua

Bharat Ratna, 1999: Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, top scientist A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, late socialist leader Jayaprakash Narayan, sitar maestro Ravi Shankar and late Assamese leader Gopinath Bordoloi.

Bihari Puruskar, 1998: Hindi scholar Dr Vishwambhar Nath Upadhyaya.

G.K. Reddy Memorial Award, 1998: M.J. Akbar, Editor-in-chief of the *Asian Age*

Indira Gandhi National Integration Award, 1998: Eminent scientist Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize, 1998: Mohammed Yunus, chairman of the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh

Jnanpith Award, 1998: Kannada playwright Girish Karnad.

Kalidas Samman, 1998: Actor-director Girish Karnad, D.K. Pattamall, Kalanidhi Narayanan and Arpita Singh.

Lata Mangeshkar Award, 1999: Music director Ilaiyaraaja.

National Science Awards, 1999: M.A. Sethu Rao of Bangalore for promoting science; Bijoy Krishna Dev Sharma of Shillong for the best coverage in the mass media; and Surujanika, a Bhubaneswar-based voluntary organisation, for popularisation of science among children.

National Tourism Award, 1997-98: Indian Railways, for its innovative project, *The Fairy Queen*, the oldest working steam locomotive in the world. Built in 1855, it is already included in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Padma Bhushan, 1999: Nuclear scientists Anil Kakodkar and K. Santhanam, thespian Ashok Kumar, litterateurs D.C. Kizhakemuri (Malayalam), Vidya Niwas Mishra (Sanskrit) and Shiv Mangal Singh Suman (Hindi), space scientist George Joseph, social workers H.D. Shourie and Jacob Cherian, politician Jagravesha Chandra, social worker Pushpa Lata Das, ophthalmologist S.S. Badrinath, industrialist S.P. Godrej and Pandit Ram Kinkar Upadhyay.

Padma Shri, 1999: Script writer Javed Akhtar, cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, weightlifter K. Malleshwari, novelist Ruskin Bond, educationalist Asis Dutta and Mizo social worker Brig T. Sailo are among the 34 people chosen for the Padma Shri.

Padma Vibhushan, 1999: Nuclear scientist R. Chidambaram, melody queen Lata Mangeshkar, pioneer of "Operation Flood" Verghese Kurien, former Supreme Court judge H.R. Khanna, renowned vocalist Bhimsen Joshi, Carnatic musician D.K. Pattammall, civil servant Dharam Vira, social workers Nana Deshmukh and P.S.V. Athawale, former Supreme Court judge V.R. Krishna Iyer, sculptor Satish Gujral, son of late President S. Radhakrishnan, Sarvepalli Gopal, former Jammu and Kashmir Governor B.K. Nehru and late civil servant L.P. Singh.

R.D. Birla Awards, 1996 and 1998: P. M. Udani and D.V. Balasubramaniam, for 1996 and 1998 respectively.

Saraswati Samman, 1998: Sankha Ghosh, the Bengali poet.

Shankar Puruskar, 1998: Shashi Prabha Kumar.

Vyas Samman, 1998: Hindi litterateur Govind Mishra, for his work, *Paanch Aangnon Wala Ghar*.

Film Awards

Filmfare Awards: *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* was adjudged the best film and also earned awards for Kajol (best actress), Shah Rukh Khan (best actor), Karan Johar (best director), Rani Mukerjee (best actress in a supporting role), Salman Khan (best actor in a supporting role). *Satya* won three critics' awards: best film, Manoj Bajpayee (best actor), Shefali Chhaya (best actress). *Chaiya Chaiya* song from *Dil Se* won awards for Gulzar (best lyrics), A.R. Rahman (best music), Sukhwinder Singh (best male playback singer) and Farah Khan (best choreography). Jaswinder Narula was adjudged best female singer for her song in *Pyar to Hona Hi Tha*. Best debutants were Preity Zinta and Fardeen Khan. Shekhar Kapur, director of *Elizabeth*, won a special award.

Golden Camera Award: Indian director Murali Nair's *Marana Simhasanam* won the Golden Camera Award at the Cannes International Film Festival. The prize for the best film went to *Rosetta* by Belgian director Luc and Jean-Pierre Dardenne. The film's heroine, Belgian actress Emile Dequenne shared the best actress award with French actress Severine Canele. The best actor award went to Emmanuel Schotte for his role in the movie, *Humanity*.

International Film Festival Lifetime Achievement Award: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has instituted a Lifetime Achievement Award to be given every year during the International Film Festival. The first award was conferred upon the Italian master, Bernardo Bertolucci, whose films include *The Little Buddha* and *The Sheltering Sky*.

Oscar Awards: *Best film:* *Shakespeare in Love*, *Best director:* Steven Spielberg for *Saving Private Ryan*, *Best Actor:* Roberto Beging for *Life is Beautiful*, *Best Actress:* Gwyneth Paltrow for *Shakespeare in Love*, *Best supporting actor:* James Coburn for *Affliction*, *Best supporting actress:* Judi Dench for *Shakespeare in Love*, *Best non-English Language film:* *Life is Beautiful*, *Best screenplay:* *Shakespeare in Love*, *Best screenplay adaptation:* Bill Condon for *Gods and Monsters*, *Best art direction:* *Shakespeare in Love*, *Best cinematography:* *Saving Private Ryan*, *Best original musical or comedy score:* *Shakespeare in Love*, *Best original dramatic score:* *Life is Beautiful*, *Best original song:* 'When you Believe' from *The Prince of Egypt*, *Best editing:* *Saving Private Ryan*, *Best sound effects editing:* *Saving Private Ryan*, *Best visual effects:* *What Dreams May Come*, *Best costume:* *Shakespeare in Love*, *Best make-up:* *Elizabeth*.

Sports

Chess

World Rapid Chess Ranking

GRANDMASTER Viswanathan Anand has topped the World Rapid Chess Ranking introduced by the Federation International de Echecs (FIDE) for the first time. He became the first player to cross 2,800 points, which included points scored by all players in rapid chess events with a time of 30 minutes and more than 2,000 classical chess events.

Cricket

England-New Zealand Test series

NEW Zealand levelled the series against England when they won the second Test at Lord's by 9 wickets. It was their first Test match victory at the home of cricket.

Football

Women's World Cup

USA beat China 5-4 on penalties to win the women's World Cup held at Los Angeles.

Copa America

BRAZIL beat Uruguay 3-0 to lift the Copa America held at Asuncion. Midfielder Rivaldo scored two first-half goals and the third was scored by striker Ronaldo.

Golf

British Open

PAUL Lawrie of Scotland won the British Open with Justin Leonard of USA and Jean Van de Velde trailing behind.

Hockey

Federation Cup

MARYANA won the Rani Mukherjee memorial Challenger Cup in the women's section by beating Indian Railways 3-1 via the tie-breaker in the 6th women's Federation Cup championship held at Tirupati.

Appointments Etc

APPOINTED, ELECTED ETC

Vladimir Putin: He has been appointed Prime Minister of Russia.

Arvind Dave: He has been appointed Governor of Arunachal Pradesh.

G.C. Malhotra: He has been appointed Secretary General in the Lok Sabha secretariat.

Om Prakash Chautala: He is the new Chief Minister of Haryana.

Piyush Mankad: He has been appointed Finance and Revenue Secretary.

Vijay Kelkar: He has been appointed Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

RESIGNED

Nitish Kumar: Union Railway Minister.

Bansi Lal: Chief Minister of Haryana.

J.H. Patel: Chief Minister of Karnataka.

DIED

David Ogilvy: One of the legends of modern advertising and founder of worldwide ad agency Ogilvy and Mather.

John F. Kennedy, Jr: Son of former US President John Kennedy and editor of *George* magazine.

Nirad C. Chowdhury: Indian born author and scholar.

Rajendra Kumar: Legendary actor and heart-throb of millions.

Hakeem Abdul Hameed: Founder of Hamdard University, Delhi.

M.L. Jaisimha: Former Indian batsman.

Asok Mitra: Writer, academician and former bureaucrat.

Janardhan Thakur: Veteran journalist and columnist.

Rajendra Kumari Bajpai: Former Lt General of Pondicherry and veteran Congress leader.

Kalpna Rai: Former Union Minister and Congress leader.

vehicle killing 10 police commandos in Sri Lanka.

6—Militants storm an Army camp in Kupwara district in J&K. Five soldiers and six militants are killed in the encounter.

7—Militants in J & K attack Army brigade HQ in Trehgam

9—Russian President Boris Yeltsin fires his third cabinet in a year, replacing the loyalist Premier Sergei Stepashin with head of Russia's security service Vladimir Putin.

—Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee charges Pakistan with imposing war on India

10—An intruding Pak surveillance aircraft is shot down by Indian Air Force over the marshy land of Kori Creek near Gujarat Coast.

—The Delhi High Court clears the telecom package with stiff conditions. The interim ruling also allows Election Commission to intervene and stop the package if it so desires.

EVENTS

JULY

12—India serves ultimatum on Pakistan to withdraw its forces from the Line of Control (LoC) in the Kargil sector by July 16.

13—Militants gun down a Deputy Commandant and two others after storming the Border Security Force residential campus in Bandipora in J & K.

14—Maharashtra Assembly is dissolved, clearing the decks for simultaneous Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in the State.

15—At least 72 persons are drowned when an overloaded country boat capsizes in the Ganga at Snanighat in Patna district.

16—The Delhi-bound Grand Trunk Express from Chennai rams into a derailed goods train near Mathura, killing 18 people and injuring more than 200.

18—Pakistani forces pull out completely from Batalik, Kaksar and Drass sectors.

20—Haryana Chief Minister Bansi Lal resigns shortly before a trial of strength in the *Vidhan Sabha*

—Militants strike in Doda and Poonch districts of J&K and kill 19 people.

22—The Karnataka Legislative Assembly is dissolved.

26—The Army announces that the last of the Pakistani intruders are evicted and that Indian territory is free of Pakistani presence.

29—An LTTE suicide bomber kills a prominent Tamil member of Parliament in Colombo.

—An investor in USA guns down 12 people rattled by losses he suffered on the stock exchange.

AUGUST

2—The Delhi-bound Brahmaputra mail collides with Guwahati-bound Assam-Avadh Express near Gaisal in North Bengal, killing more than 400 people.

4—An LTTE suicide bomber blasts a

Arundhati Roy: She has donated her Booker Prize money to the *Narmada Bachao Andolan* (NBA).

Veer Bhadra Mishra: A priest at a Varanasi temple and also a hydraulics engineer, he has been named by *Time* magazine as one of its seven "heroes for the planet" for his efforts to save the Ganga river from pollution.

Apurba Kumar Dutta: He is the winner of the *Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshmitra* award for his role in creating awareness in protecting the ecology of Tripura.

Gunjan Saxena: She is the first and only woman pilot of the IAF to have flown into a combat zone. She flew 13 sorties in a *Chetna* helicopter during the Kargil conflict.

On July 23, 1999, the *Chandra* X-ray Observatory, NASA's newest space telescope, was launched by the US space shuttle *Columbia* which was commanded by the first woman commander, astronaut Eileen Collins.

Chandra will allow scientists from around the world to obtain unprecedented X-ray images of the universe to help understand the structure and evolution of the universe. The observatory will not only help to probe the mysteries of the universe, but will also serve as a unique tool to study detailed physics.

The *Chandra* X-ray Observatory will provide unique and crucial information on the nature of objects, ranging from comets in our solar system to black holes and quasars at the edge of the observable universe.

Since X-rays are absorbed by the earth's atmosphere, space-based observatories are necessary to study these phenomena.

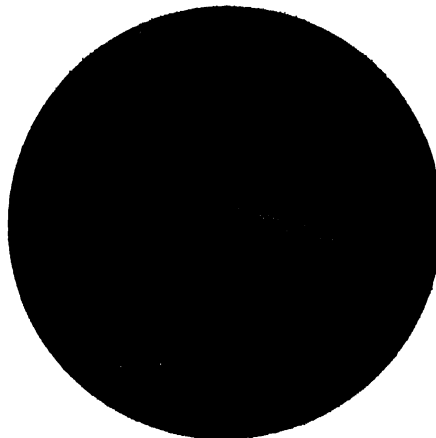
The observatory is named in honour of the late Indian-American Nobel laureate Subramanian Chandrasekhar. *Chandra* is the shortened version of Chandrasekhar's name, which he preferred among friends and colleagues.

Unlike the Hubble space

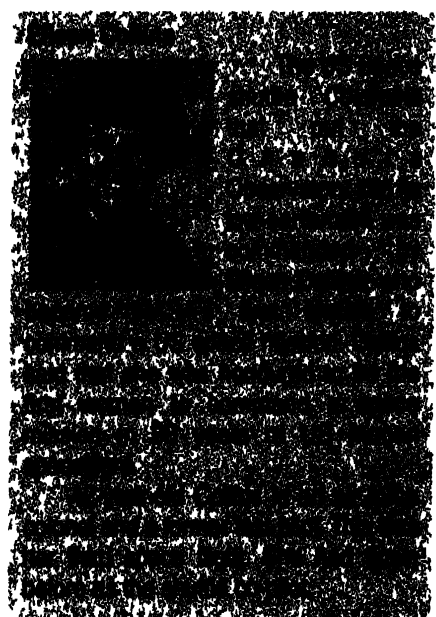
Dr Subramanian Chandrasekhar

R Widely regarded as one of the foremost astrophysicists of the 20th century, he won the Nobel Prize in 1983 for his theoretical studies of physical processes important to the structure and evolution of stars. He and his wife had emigrated from India to the US in 1935. He served on the faculty of the University of Chicago, until his death in 1995.

Born in Lahore in 1910, Chandrasekhar was the nephew of India's only other physics Nobelist, C.V. Raman. His theories form the basis for modern astrophysics. The critical mass he predicted in one of his theories is called the "Chandrasekhar Unit".



Exploring the Invisible Universe



telescope's circular orbit that is relatively close to the earth, the *Chandra* X-ray Observatory has been placed in a highly elliptical (oval shaped) orbit. At its closest approach to the earth, the observatory will be at an altitude of about 9920 km. At its farthest, 1,39,200 km, it will travel almost one-third of the way to the Moon. Due to the highly elliptical orbit, the observatory will circle the earth every 64 hours, carrying it far outside the belts of radiation that surround the earth. This radiation, while harmless to life on earth, can overwhelm the observatory's sensitive instruments. The observatory will be outside this radiation long

enough to make 55 hours of uninterrupted observations during each orbit.

The mirrors of the X-ray observatory are the largest of their kind and the smoothest ever created. The largest of the eight mirrors is almost 4 feet in diameter and 3 feet long. Assembled, the mirror group weighs more than 1 ton.

The *Chandra* X-ray Observatory represents a scientific leap in ability over previous X-ray observatories like NASA's *Einstein*, which orbited the Earth from 1978 to 1981. With its combination of large mirror area, accurate alignment and efficient X-ray detectors, the *Chandra* X-ray Observatory has eight times greater resolution and is 20-to-50 times more sensitive than any previous X-ray telescope.

The life of the *Chandra* Observatory is expected to be five years. The entire project, including the shuttle ride and five years of orbital operations will cost USD \$ 2.8 billion.

Space shuttle Columbia



Columbia was the only shuttle big enough to hold *Chandra*, which weighs 50,000 pounds. NASA ran extra engineering

studies to make sure that the shuttle could sustain the weight of, because of some problem, it had to return to earth with the telescope still on board.

Besides, *Chandra*, *Columbia* also contained a slew of secondary experiments and memorabilia, some with a female motif. The US mint sent up 12 new gold coins bearing the image of Sacagawea, the Indian guide who accompanied Lewis and Clark on their Northwest expedition. Also on board were lockers and painted lockers bearing the names of the four astronauts: John, Paul, George and Rhea.

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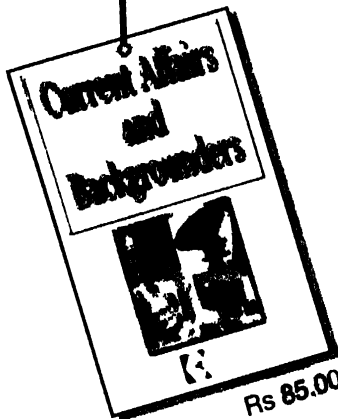
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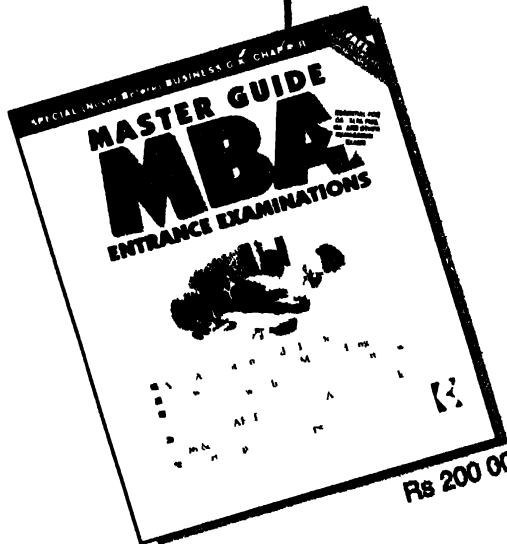
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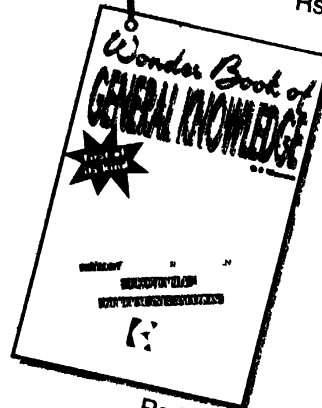
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The best two letters of the month appearing in the box have been awarded a prize of Rs 100 00 each. Readers are invited to send us their views on topics covered in this issue. You can also e mail your response to letters@competitionmaster.com. The decision of the Editor will be final.

KARGIL CONFLICT

The Lahore bus diplomacy has been a total failure in dealing with Pakistan. We have been showing gestures of friendship but Pakistan has been misusing it to stab us in the back. Post Kargil, India must review its policy and adopt a tough stand against Pakistan. The lives lost should not be in vain.

*Pranav Kumar
Darbhanga Bihar*

It is very sad to see statements made by the Opposition parties on the Kargil issue. The Congress party seems to be frustrated to be making all kinds of allegations. Sonia Gandhi seems to be as power hungry as anyone else. Instead of making statements, why does she not organise some relief for the victims of the war?

*Nivrit Srivastava
Allahabad Uttar Pradesh*

India and Pakistan ranked 132 and 138 in the Human Development Report, cannot afford the high military expenditure they are incurring. The only way out is to make peace so that this money can be used in more productive things.

*Alok Sharma
Gwalior*

The greatest fault, perhaps, lies in us that we forget incidents soon and do not learn lessons from repeated mistakes. It is high time that we took strong

measures so that Pakistan cannot play with the lives and property of our nation.

*Nitin Kumar
Kanpur Uttar Pradesh*

What better way of taking attention off from problems of food, drinking water, health and education than to have a war? Was the bus diplomacy used to engineer the conflict? Political thrillers describe such conspiracies so they are not as unrealistic as they sound.

*Bhaskar Roy
Calcutta*

WHAT GOOD ARE DAMS?

The problems of the poor should not be ignored. Otherwise, there is development for the rich and harassment for the poor. Solutions must be found to fully exploit the advantages of dams without damaging anyone's welfare.

*Gopal Kumar
Muzaffarpur Bihar*

The only reason that big dams are being defended with so much zeal is because of vested interests of politicians and construction companies, to say nothing of funding agencies. Big dams submerge large areas and displace people. They may even cause earthquakes. The answer lies in small dams which do not cause environmental havoc but provide power to neighbouring communities.

*K S Sarma
Halwara*

LESSONS FROM KARGIL

India and Pakistan signed the Shimla agreement in 1971 and agreed that both sides would not cross the LoC. Pakistan, however, violated the agreement. What stops India from doing the same? Instead of losing precious lives in trying to throw out the enemy, we should cross the LoC and take control of POK. This will pay them back in the same coin.

*Vikas Gill
Rohtak, Haryana*

Operation Vijay was no doubt successful but we have to see what we gained in the Kargil conflict. We bombed our own territory and lost quite a few precious lives. Despite international opinion being in our favour, we have not got any assurance that Pakistan will not do such things in the future. India should have asked for compensation as it was drawn into a needless conflict. The positive aspect is that the defence structure can be reviewed, both from financial and strategic point of view.

*Poonam Kumari Sharma
Patna, Bihar*

CAN BUREAUCRATS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Your debate brought out the fact that people can make a difference only if they have a conscience. Neither politicians nor bureaucrats can make a difference today because their soul and conscience is dead. They have become blind by their greed for money and power. The bureaucrats mentioned in the debate are in a minority.

*Bhumika Acharya
Chandrapur, Maharashtra*

CM FEATURES

Even though there are a number of career magazines in the market, I prefer CM because

most of your essays have been asked in examinations. The Descriptive Questions and Ask the Master are very good features and answer many questions that we have. I would recommend this magazine to all students.

*Ganga Ramesh Sharma
Khammam (A.P.)*

REQUEST TO READERS

May be you have appeared in some competitive examinations recently. We shall be grateful if you could send us the question papers. All those sending original question papers will be suitably compensated and the original papers will be returned.

—Editor

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From the Desk of the

Editor



Dear Readers

India's population has touched one billion. The ever increasing population is causing problems like unemployment and poverty. The irony, however, is that there are few people available for many of the jobs that have opened up today. These jobs require education and the attitude of excellence. Most of Indians do not have both.

Much of the population does not have access to good education; while most government schools are simply bad, private schools are too expensive to be out of reach of the majority of the population. In colleges, teachers do not teach but concentrate, instead, on private tuitions. A person who does not have the means finds it difficult to appear in competitive exams like pre-medical, pre-engineering, etc. Colleges and universities, which are supposed to impart education, have become just a means of "time-pass".

It is not surprising that the majority of the population today does not have the knowledge or the requisite skills to take up the jobs that are becoming available because of globalisation or advancement in technology.

If things continue to be the way they are, we will find a majority of people unfit for modern jobs. It would be an irony indeed if there are opportunities, but still a huge population remains without jobs! With best wishes,

S. P. S.

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War as a Nation-Builder

EVEN though wars have invariably been condemned as barbarous and disastrous, they have been a recurring phenomenon in almost all parts of the world throughout known history. We may well say that the story of mankind is a story of wars interspersed with brief interludes of peace, spent in preparing for coming wars or ruminating over their consequences. Many a time men have set out to outlaw war as a means of settling international disputes but every time their efforts have resulted in failure. We have seen that happening in our own times. As the Second World War drew to a close, the Allies set up with much fanfare the United Nations Organization to act as the guardian of peace on earth. But it has been a more or less helpless witness to at least fifty conflicts, big and small, which have broken out in different parts of the world during the years in which it has been in existence.

In the light of the foregoing, we have to confess that man has not so far found an acceptable alternative to wars, irrespective of whether they are waged for just or unjust causes. Apparently, pending realization of the dream of a world order, we have to accept wars are inevitable.

All the condemnation heaped upon it notwithstanding, war has its positive side too, like everything else. While a war is being fought it also yields as a by-product, dividend of another type which, though not directly aimed at, is as valuable and as tangible as any victories gained on the battlefield. It is the contribution it makes to awakening among a people a sense of national pride and solidarity, stimulating their industrial and economic growth, etc.

Nations are made up of individuals. The socio-psychological impact which a war has on individuals constituting the nation involved in that war, would therefore, have great relevance in examining how wars act as nation-builders. Men are

prone to move closer to one another in the face of common danger. When a country is at war, its people naturally forget their small differences and quarrels and come to possess a greater sense of solidarity than they would be capable of displaying in times of peace. No amount of sermonising could have accomplished the national integration and unity which the people of India displayed in 1962 in the face of the Chinese aggression, or in 1965 and 1971 when Pakistan attacked the country and recently in 1999, when the Pakistani forces occupied Indian territory in Kargil.

War has a generally ennobling and uplifting influence on the members of a fighting nation in a thousand other ways also. As the famous essayist Emerson has said, "War educates the senses, calls into action the will, perfects the physical constitution, brings man into such swift and close collision in critical moments that man measures man." It is the law of nature that in situations of stress, the reserves of energy stored in the human body come into play. A man usually afraid of venturing out alone in the dark in his normal daily life can very often perform wonders of bravery while facing the enemy. How often in times of war we hear of ordinary men rising of great heights of heroism.

What is usually referred to as morale in times of war is the manifestation of a nation's collective will to face the enemy with courage and determination. It is a very important factor making for victory to the country which possesses it in abundance. It stimulates the soldier and the civilian alike and makes an intangible but most valuable contribution to a country's war-effort. It teaches the people of a country to bear up with hardships cheerfully, to think positively and to hope for the best even in the face of the biggest reverses. Gradually it becomes an attitude of mind ingrained in the national consciousness, serving as

useful a purpose in times of peace, as it had done in war-time.

It is, in fact, a war situation which brings to light a nation's weak points in all directions and affords it an opportunity to deal with them suitably.

Take the economic front for instance. In order to win a war, a nation has to be as strong or even stronger on the economic front than it is on the military front. While the soldier stands facing the enemy, the civil population makes its own contribution to the war-effort by intensifying the battle on the economic front. The farm-hand and the factory worker do their respective jobs with redoubled zeal so that there is no shortage of supplies of any kind and the country can freely go on prosecuting its war-aims for as long as the fighting lasts.

Another important direction in which war helps build a nation is in the sphere of scientific research. The contingencies of war place heavy demands on the available technological skills, and in order not to allow the enemy to outstrip its own defence effort, a country has to concentrate on scientific research to make new inventions and discoveries which should give it an edge over its opponent and serve to shorten the course of war. Such research often yields long-lasting benefits.

As long as men value their freedom and countries cherish their national honour, wars are inevitable because they have the virtue of deciding issues more definitively than diplomacy. And so long as they are inevitable, we must also know that they are great stimulants which help in the all-sided development of a nation. They make men more patriotic, give a unique stimulus to a country's economic and industrial development, promote scientific research and discoveries. A nation which has had a long, uninterrupted spell of peace faces the danger of a decline. But a nation which, has had the baptism of war always emerges stronger from the experience.

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Winners or Runners-up?

With Mrs Sonia Gandhi's formal plunge into the battle

of the ballot box, things have assumed a somewhat different complexion and contours. The focus is on who, Sonia or Vajpayee? Many think that the question is merely rhetorical as there is no comparison between the two. Well, such people are entitled to their opinion. Two things stand out conspicuously from whatever angle one may choose to look at the present general elections. One, the present elections are going to be held under the "shadow" of the limited war of Kargil, and *Operation Vijay*. This adds a new and rather touchy dimension to the entire electoral scene. The national security plank is bound to figure in it in a big or small way. Though it is difficult to say that this issue alone will decide the fate of the battle of the ballot box.

Mrs Sonia Gandhi and Mrs Sushma Swaraj battle it

out in Bellary in Karnataka—a seat the Congress has not lost even once. By choosing such a "safe" seat Mrs Gandhi has certainly shown a degree of nervousness and apprehension. With Mr Arun Nehru, contesting from the late Mrs Indira Gandhi's constituency, Mrs Sonia's jitters became all too obvious, notwithstanding her bold (read bravado) statement about the "stuff she is made of".

There are other factors which are likely to weigh against Mrs Gandhi. Her opponent, Mrs Swaraj, is a fiery, seasoned orator whereas it is difficult for Mrs Gandhi to string together a dozen sentences in Hindi which will be understood in the South. Mrs Swaraj has too long been in thick of Indian politics and

knows to feel the pulse of the people. Her slogan: "Videshi vs Swadeshi" has a ring of realism as well of shrewd politics. Mrs Sonia Gandhi is averse to face the media and quite often has to be "hidden" or "protected" like a poor fielder in the game of cricket. Often questions she answers are obviously planted or tutored. Her smile betrays her mind.

Mrs Sonia's tactical blunder by raising the Bofors issue is likely to recoil upon her. Home Minister L.K. Advani has already stated publicly that her Italian friend's name officially figured among the recipients of bribes in the gun deal. The lady further compounded her case by refusing to answer a simple question whether Mr Quatterochi was a family

friend or not. This silence speaks louder than her denial.

The greatest handicap she suffers from is her coterie and her spokespersons. Most are self-seekers, two-penny politicians sans vision. Mr K Natwar Singh is so much obsessed with his arrogance that every time he opens his mouth, he thinks he is addressing a session of the United Nations! Mr Pranab Mukherjee, who has never done the good job of winning an election, fumbles and wobbles with words. Mr Jogi grins from ear to ear and thinks that treating everyone with contempt wins votes. Mrs Sonia Gandhi and her foot-touchers may realize that in elections the runners-up win no prizes.

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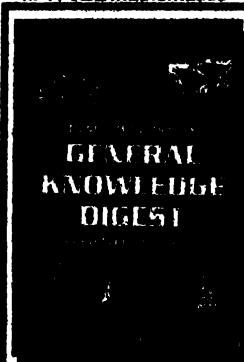
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Problem of Child Labour

CHILDREN have always worked, to varying degrees, in nearly all cultures, but with the development of the Industrial Revolution, child labour in the new factories began on a larger scale. However, use of child labour was not regarded a social problem until the introduction of the factory system.

Children must work because the survival of their families depends on it. They work because of poverty and non-availability of schools, compounded by poor quality of education and rapid rural and urban migration.

Employers find child workers especially attractive and economical because of their innate or perceived characteristics like docility and speed, because they can be paid very low wages and because they offer flexibility in situation of fluctuating or unstable conditions. Employers exercise power and control over their underage employees and child labour is virtually synonymous with labour without representation or rights.

Prohibition or regulation

SINCE the problem of child labour captured media attention there have been two schools of thought about tackling it—prohibition or regulation. The group favouring regulation argued that poverty was the main cause of child labour and attempt should be made under which the children work rather than to prohibit such work. Since poverty could not be simply legislated away, regulation would help in tackling child labour.

Other group believed that the tender age of children should not be abused and they should not be forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength.

Today, there is a world-wide concern

for total abolition of child labour, which arises in large part from the implications for the child's health, education, physical and intellectual development and for his lifetime opportunities.

Efforts of ILO

THE most important efforts to eliminate child-labour abuses throughout the world come from the International Labour Organization (ILO), founded in 1919. The organization has introduced several child-labour conventions and recommendations among its members, including a minimum age of 16 years for admission to all work (whether within the family or not), a higher minimum age for specific types of employment, compulsory medical examinations, and regulation of night work.

A convention seeks to create obligations of binding nature and its ratification requires complete compliance with all its provisions. A recommendation, on the other hand, is generally guiding principles for action and may be implemented progressively or in parts.

The ILO, however, does not have the power to enforce these conventions; it depends on voluntary compliance of member nations. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989, includes restrictions on child labour and is formally binding on all countries which have ratified it, but it has no enforcement mechanisms attached.

UN estimates state that by the year 2000 there will be 375 million child labourers worldwide.

The law in India

IN India the child labour (Prohibition and Regulation Act) came into force towards latter half of 1986. It listed particular

processes in certain industries as being banned for children below the age of 14 years, with a proviso that such a ban would not apply to those children working as part of family labour or to those working in any State-funded or State-supported institutions. It is interesting to note that the provisions of the 1986 Act were almost identical to those in the Employment of Children Act 1938.

The only difference between the laws of 1938 and 1986 was that the latter envisaged the constitution of a Child Labour Technical Advisory Committee, which was to investigate on a continuing basis, processes in different industries in order to determine whether they were hazardous or not.

New convention of ILO

RECENTLY, International Labour Organisation adopted a convention banning the more exploitative forms of child labour. Few will argue that this disturbing aspect of child labour deserves priority. Child workers trapped in highly exploitative, dangerous and hazardous activities merits the world's attention and support. Hazardous jobs pose danger to life and health of child workers by unsafe working environment in many agricultural and industrial undertakings.

The existence of the law banning child labour in hazardous occupations in India has not helped in eradicating the menace of child labour. This is because it is very difficult to define what is dangerous or hazardous.

The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of India is based on the belief that child labour should be prohibited in hazardous processes but the Act does not use the word hazardous anywhere. With this there is room for legal hair splitting about whether a process is

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hazardous or not.

Also, even the non-hazardous occupations carry hazards in respect of psychological effect on the mental and intellectual development of children.

ILO bans will not change the economic reality of the child workers. Most of the India's 60 million child workers work in carpet, firecrackers, glass, match and lock industries and labour in fields. Such children will continue to find means to support their families

Instead, there is need to provide alternatives to child labour. Free and compulsory primary education is a necessary, if not sufficient, condition for eradicating child labour. Article 45 of directive principle of State policy of India provides that the State shall endeavour to provide within a period of ten years from the commencement of the Constitution free and compulsory education to children until they complete the age of 14 years. Even after 50 years of independence we have failed to universalize primary education.

Measures that relieve the poverty, unemployment and work-burden together with educational infrastructure expansion is necessary to combat child labour. Urban unemployment rates are very high in developing countries. In these circumstances, employment of children becomes an essential means of generating and supplementing the family income.

Emancipation of women is also necessary to regulate child labour. When there are restrictions on women's participation in specific or non-domestic activities, children begin to perform these roles.

But, on the other hand, given the fact that the abolition of child labour is unattainable in many developing countries in the short run, and therefore millions of children will continue to work under hazardous and exploitative conditions, the conditions under which the child workers work should be the focus of present day's policy.

There is a suggestion of looking at child labour mainly as "labour problem". Therefore most of the solutions presented should be in form of asking for equal wages for adults and children and unionizing children so they can demand

equality from the system.

The recent ILO convention may be the first step towards a broad linkage of labour with trade. Developing countries have alleged that the developed countries like USA are using the existence of child labour as a pretext to restrict imports from the developing countries. Their objective is to protect their industries and workers as third world exports with their price advantage may lead to loss of job of western workers. This argument is, however, not justified as not even 5 per cent of all child workers are employed in the export industry.

Measures for abolition

THE eventual abolition of child labour and protection of working children during the transitional period requires not only legislative provision but also a range of complementary provisions aimed at attacking the root cause of child labour and reducing its incidence over time.

- Provision of schemes that generate and enhance employment and income among adult workers.

- Equally important is the promotion of schooling including formal and non-formal education.

- Feeding programs and free availability of books and uniform for school children.

- "Debureaucratization" of the issue of child labour so that it can become a subject of public concern, rather than almost exclusive concern of the government. Creating a strong organisational infrastructure of local initiatives can do this.

- Attacking the basic cause of child labour through poverty eradicating schemes.

- Protecting children at work by introducing measures for their immediate protection from adverse working conditions.

- Restricting child labour by promoting ratification and application of international labour standards.

The complex nature of child labour problem implies a need for multipronged approach encompassing not only legislation and enforcement but also action in the above mentioned areas.

Kids in Conflict



Terrorist and rebel groups are known to recruit and draft youngsters. In the last decade, two million children have been killed, one million orphaned and six million seriously injured or disabled because of conflicts.

More than 300,000 children under 18—some as young as seven—are known to be currently engaged in armed conflicts around the world, in places such as Sudan, Colombia, Angola, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

The terrorist and rebel groups recruit children because they are malleable and strangers to danger, and therefore convenient instruments for mindless violence.

In last week of August, 1999, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution urging all warring parties to protect children and stop turning them into soldiers. The resolution was the Security Council's first on dealing with children in armed conflict.

The resolution condemned the targeting, recruitment and abduction of children in war and urged all governments to ratify and adhere to treaties protecting children.

UN Special representative for children in armed conflict, Olara Otunnu, has appealed for the ratification and worldwide application of the Geneva Conventions, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the treaty establishing the International Criminal Court.

However, India's UN ambassador Kamlesh Sharma said that the Council was impotent to stop rebel groups and terrorists from recruiting and drafting children.

Human Development Report: An Analysis

The Human Development Report brought out by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a document that compares relative development in countries. It also compares various indices which show how human resources are used and treated in different countries. The tenth report, published this year, has the theme "Globalisation with a human face" and describes aspects of globalisation which create prosperity, on one hand, and human insecurity, on the other. It is an important report which sheds light on the globalisation process. In this issue, we present an analysis of the latest report, which provides an invaluable comparative picture of countries.

THE Human Development Report (HDR) is an annual project conceived and directed by the late economist Mahbub ul Haq. It recognises that the real wealth of a nation are its people. "The purpose of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives. This simple but powerful truth is too often forgotten in the pursuit of material and financial wealth", —the words of the first HDR in 1990 hold good even today.

Globalisation with a human face

OVER the years, globalisation has been chanted as a mantra. It has been taken as a path of rapid economic growth. Countries go out of their way to attract foreign investment. Many countries, including India, have undertaken the path of liberalisation, often forgetting the impact on people. It is often seen as a flow of money and goods in world markets. The latest HDR recognises that globalisation has connected people everywhere. It has created opportunities, but at the same time has resulted in

"shrinking space, shrinking time and disappearing borders". The report recognises that when profit motives of market players get out of hand, they challenge people's ethics—and sacrifice respect for justice and human rights.

Perhaps, for the first time it has been accepted that the rewards of globalisation spread unequally and inequitably, concentrating power and wealth in a select group of people. It says that the challenge is not to stop expansion of global markets but to find the rules and institutions for stronger governance. It must be ensured that globalisation works for people, and not just for profits. Thus, it must have:

- a) ethics and less violation of human rights,
- b) equity and less disparity within and among nations,
- c) inclusion, meaning less marginalisation of people,
- d) human security with less instability,
- e) sustainability, so that there is less environmental destruction, and
- f) development, resulting in less poverty and deprivation.

Inequalities

THE HDR points out that in the past decade, inequalities have risen greatly. The rich countries have good growth figures, but 55 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and East Europe have had declining per capita income.

	Top one-fifth People	Bottom one-fifth People
Share of world GDP	86%	1%
World export markets	82%	1%
Foreign direct investment	68%	1%
Telephone lines	74%	1.5%
Internet users	93%	0.2%

Globalisation has also resulted in new threats to human insecurity. The financial turmoil in East Asia in 1997 showed that human impacts are severe and persist for long after the economic recovery. Education and health budgets have come under pressure. Globalisation has resulted in insecurities of various kinds. There is greater job insecurity with countries adopting more flexible labour policies. There is health insecurity, with the spread of HIV/AIDS—with 95% of the 16,000 infected each day living in developing countries, AIDS has become a poor person's disease. Further, there is cultural insecurity as well, since the flow of culture today is unbalanced and flows in one direction, from rich countries to poor. The HDR also recognises that deregulated markets mean free flow not only of legal goods but of heroin and weapons as well. Criminals are reaping the rewards of globalisation, resulting in personal insecurity. Finally, there is environmental insecurity, which undercuts the livelihoods of half a billion people. This is today's "silent emergency".

How can human development be achieved, given these inequalities? The HDR gives an agenda of seven key challenges, each requiring national and international action:

1. Countries must have social policies, for redistribution and for safety nets, with an approach that combines human development and poverty eradication with social protection.

2. Reduce the threat of financial volatility in liberalised markets. Significantly, the HDR says that capital account must be liberalised carefully.

3. Strong global action to fight global crime, emergencies like environmental degradation, HIV/AIDS and other problems that threaten human security.

4. New technologies like the Internet

must be tapped for poverty eradication, with a review of intellectual property rights under the TRIPS agreement to redress those areas that undermine food security, indigenous knowledge, biosafety and access to health care.

5. Reverse the marginalisation of poor, small countries. One area is to reduce the debt burden of 41 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) whose debt amounted to \$11.1 billion in 1996, squeezing spending on education and health.

6. Remedy imbalances in structures of global governance. Poor countries have little influence in global policies, which must be rectified.

7. Building a more democratic structure for global governance in the 21st century, including a strong UN, a world environment agency and a world investment trust.

Human Development Indices

THE second part reports the development indices of various countries. The Human Development Index (HDI) measures average achievements in basic human development in one composite index and produces a ranking of countries. The Gender-related Development Index (GDI) and the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) were introduced in 1995 and measure gender inequalities in human development. The 1997 HDR introduced the Human Poverty Index (HPI) which measures deprivations in dimensions of human development.

The HDI reflects achievements in the most basic human capabilities, such as leading a long life, being knowledgeable and enjoying a decent standard of living. Three variables are used to represent this: life expectancy, educational attainment and income. The HDI focuses on areas beyond per capita income and provides a more comprehensive picture of human life than income does. This year, of the 174 countries for which the HDI has been calculated, 45 are in the high human development category, 94 in the medium category and 35 in the low category. Sixteen countries have experienced reversals in human development since 1990, due to HIV/AIDS

or economic stagnation.

The top five countries in human development are Canada, Norway, USA, Japan and Belgium. The lowest five countries are Burundi, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Niger and Sierra Leone. India is ranked at 132 and figures in the medium human development category. Life expectancy is 62.6 years and adult literacy rate is 53.5% (1997 figures). Pakistan is ranked at 138 and Bangladesh at 150. In 31 of the 174 countries, life expectancy increased, but it fell in 18 countries in Africa, East Europe and CIS.

The HPI reveals disparities within countries between rural and urban areas or between regions and districts. In India the HPI shows human deprivation to be the highest in Bihar (54%) and lowest in Kerala (23%). The population with access to safe drinking water is just 19%, to health services 25%, and to sanitation 71%. The report says that 53% of children under age five are under-weight.

The GDI reveals wide differences between men and women in India. While life expectancy is almost the same, the adult literacy is 39.4% for women and 66.7% for men. The real GDP per capita has been calculated at \$902 for women and \$2,389 for men. The GEM is a measure of how women are empowered in political and economic spheres of activity. It puts the number of seats held by women in Parliament at 8.3%. There are only 2.3% female administrators and managers in the country and 20.5% of professional and technical workers are women.

Not flattering

THE indices reveal a not too flattering picture for India. The per capita GDP has increased from \$251 in 1990 to \$465 in 1997, but the country is ranked below Myanmar (128) and Algeria (108). It shares company with Zimbabwe (130) and Ghana (133). This shows that for all our feelings of superiority and exhortations that we are the next superpower of the world, we are equal in human development to some African countries. Even Iraq is ranked at 125, much higher than India. The country clearly has a long way to go.

The UNDP's Human Development Report does have certain shortcomings. For example, it takes into consideration only three parameters: life expectancy, educational attainment and the capacity to buy basic goods and services (purchasing power parity, or PPP). This could be criticised on grounds that human development is complex and cannot be measured on these few parameters alone. However, the report does provide some basis for comparison. The ranking provides an indication about domestic policies that countries should follow to improve the state of human development. Unfortunately, many developing countries, including India, are too mired in their domestic politics that little thought is given to things like education and health—things that affect human development. The tragedy of the HDR is not that it is inadequate, but that it is largely ignored.

Some facts from the HDR

- The US has more computers than the rest of the world combined.
- A computer costs an average Bangladeshi more than 8 years of income, compared to one month's wage of an average American.
- Industrialised countries hold 97 per cent of the world's patents.
- Nearly 80 per cent of all websites are in English, when only 10 per cent of the people worldwide speak the language.
- The top 10 telecom companies hold 86 per cent of the market. In computers, almost 70 per cent.
- Foreign direct investment was 400 billion dollars in 1997, and 58 per cent of this went to industrialised countries. Of the rest, 80 per cent went to just 20 countries, with the maximum going to China.
- Asia, with 23 per cent of the world's population, has less than 1 per cent of the world's Internet connections.

Restructuring the Finances of States

The process of structural reforms was started in the 1991 by the Union government, mainly to overcome the serious fiscal crisis. As a result of the policy of economic reforms being followed so far by the government, the Central finances may not have improved substantially, but their further deterioration has been effectively checked. At that point of time, barring a couple of States, the finances of the State governments were generally healthy. But the report of Fifth Pay Commission, and its virtual adoption by most of the State governments, has given a fatal blow to the State finances and today most of the State governments are facing extreme financial crunch, forcing them to consider adoption of a time-bound programme of fiscal reforms.

Alarming Trends

WHEN the process of reforms was initiated in 1991, the finances of the Central government were in focus. Now it is the turn of State finances to be restructured. Till mid-nineties, most of the States were managing their revenues quite well but the past few years have really upset all their fiscal projections. Gross Fiscal Deficit (GFD) of all States taken together has assumed alarming proportions, and worsening year after year. From a level of Rs 37,261 crore in 1996-97, the GFD shot up to Rs 50881 crore in 1997-98, representing a jump of 45 per cent in one single year. During the year 1998-99, this figure is likely to cross Rs 60,000 crore. In 1997-98, Uttar Pradesh posted the highest GFD of Rs 11,313 crore, followed by West Bengal and Maharashtra, with GFD figures at Rs 4974 crore and Rs 4884 crore, respectively. In addition, ten other States, including Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Orissa and Karnataka, have run up the deficits ranging from Rs 3039 crore to Rs 1585 crore. During 1998-99, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra are expected to be

the States with heaviest deficit, with other States being in no better position. Exceptionally high growth of revenue deficits has been identified as the most important factor responsible for the worsening GFD scenario.

Another disturbing trend in the fiscal management of the States is exceptionally higher reliance placed by the States on borrowings. In 1996-97, all the State governments secured loans totalling Rs 17574 crore from the Centre and raised market borrowings worth Rs 6516 crore, for meeting the GFD of Rs 37261 crore. Thus, Central borrowings constituted about 47 per cent in financing of GFD and market borrowing contributed 17.5 per cent. In the year 1998-99, these figures are expected to be around Rs 29000 crore and Rs 7574, respectively, in the projected GFD of about Rs 60,000 crore, representing the share of Central government borrowings and market borrowings at around 48 per cent and 12.5 per cent, respectively. As a result, States' fiscal deficit, which was 2.9 per cent of the GDP in 1994-95 is expected to rise sharply to 3.7 per cent of the GDP in 1998-99.

Related to poor fiscal management is the menacingly rising revenue deficits of the States. Aggregate revenue expenditure increased by 17 per cent in 1998-99, due to sharp rise in expenditure on administrative and miscellaneous general services. Expenditure on these two factors has risen sharply due to pay revision by 80 per cent and 72 per cent, respectively. Revenue receipts, on the other hand, have gone down marginally. The aggregate revenue receipts of the major States grew by 14.7 per cent in 1998-99, as against 15.8 per cent in the revised estimates for the previous year. Most frustrating is the fact that even the collection of the sales tax, which is the most important revenue source for the States, grew at a lower rate in 1998-99 i.e. 16.1 per cent, as compared to a higher growth of 17

per cent in the previous year.

Interest payments were as high as 37 per cent of all non-developmental expenditure of the States during 1998-99. In fact, non-developmental expenditure also leaves a disturbing trend. Growing annually at the rate of about 18 per cent during the late eighties, non-developmental expenditure grew at an average rate of about 21 per cent during early nineties. But during 1998-99, the non-developmental expenditure is expected to rise by 33 per cent. Similarly, another cause of serious worry is the steady increase in the non-plan expenditure of the States. The gross non-plan expenditure of all the 26 States (including NCT Delhi), which was Rs 1,29,133 crore in 1995-96, rose sharply to Rs 2,02,531 crore in 1998-99. In terms of per cent increase, this category of expenditure grew by 15.9 per cent in 1996-97, and by 17 per cent in 1998-99. At individual level, some States have done extremely bad in this regard. In Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh the growth of non-plan expenditure during 1998-99 was as high as 29.3 and 36.1 per cent, respectively, while growth in Orissa and Himachal Pradesh was 31.4 and 28.4 per cent, respectively, during the same year.

Growing subsidies is yet another cause for concern. There has been a substantial increase in the total subsidies being offered by the States these days, thanks to growing political populism. Total of explicit and implicit subsidies now accounts for 10 per cent of the GDP. Seventy per cent of all the State subsidies account for cheap or free financing of non-merit goods, including higher education, family welfare, irrigation, power and agriculture. The priorities have gone upside down as other services like primary education and essential infrastructure get a meagre residual share of subsidies. As per the Constitution of India, State governments can levy taxes on urban property, agricultural income and small scale

industries, but the growing populism has prevented all the State governments from effectively taxing any of these areas.

Obvious Reasons

ONE of the most important factors responsible for sudden deterioration of the State finances is the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission, which have been adopted *in toto* by most of the State governments. The burden of this pay commission report has been the heaviest so far in the fiscal history of the States. Irony is that the entire pay hike suggested has been adopted, but the other parts of the report, aimed at improving the productivity and efficiency, have been ignored altogether.

This, however, is not the only reason. In most of the States, the gap between tax revenue potential and actual realisation has been widening, especially in the richer State like Maharashtra, where a large variety of concessions are given for many reasons. Non-tax revenues in real terms (after taking away the effect of inflation) have been virtually stagnant in most of the States.

Failure of most of the States to contain the non-productive and wasteful revenue expenditure is another contributing factor. On top of that, there is a general reluctance on part of the States to raise revenues to augment their resources. This has resulted in mounting revenue expenditure, leading to fiscal crisis. This situation of crisis has emerged only during the past two decades. Earlier, almost all the States had a positive balance from the current revenues, but at present balance from current revenues is negative for almost all States, meaning thereby that their finances are not even sufficient to meet the non-plan expenditure. This is also resulting in diversion of funds from capital account to meet the entire revenue expenditure on the plan side and part of revenue expenditure on non-plan side too.

All these factors have put most of the States under extreme financial burden. Many States have pinned their hopes on 29 per cent of the Central taxes which are expected to be devolved by the Eleventh Finance Commission soon. Many others are resorting to further borrowings to meet

their earlier debt repayment commitments. This trend needs to be arrested immediately, otherwise the cheap political populism will put the entire financial system of the country (including the States) in serious jeopardy.

Impending Restructuring

IT is for the first time after independence that need for reforms at the State-level has been recognised with due earnest. For the first time, a Finance Commission (Eleventh Finance Commission) has been asked to go into the financial management of the States and give its recommendations on restructuring of State finances. Further, the government had commissioned a panel, known as Pant Panel under the Chairmanship of Sh K.C. Pant, Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission, to find out long-term solutions to tackle growing fiscal deficits of the States. Further, an economic reforms package is being prepared in the Planning Commission which includes several measures to improve the financial health of the State governments. These measures are, on the one hand, expected to improve the finances of the States, and, on the other, improve considerably the investment by the States in social sectors, thereby assisting in rapid economic development.

The industrial sector believes that unless the measures already taken by the Union government were supplemented by the States, it was extremely difficult to have an investment-friendly industrial climate. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has recently emphasized the need for minimising the intervention of the State governments in industrial relations and integrating the laws of various States and the Union government. It was further maintained by the FICCI that the Union government should promote healthy competition among the State governments for offering more investor-friendly and business-attractive climate.

K.C. Pant Panel has come up with some specific suggestions regarding the reforms to be introduced in the States. Foremost of all the suggestions is the recommendation to drastically reduce direct and indirect subsidies. It is suggested that

the era of subsidies, particularly the non-merit ones, was over and near-free power and water for the agricultural sector was required to be charged. In most of the States, subsidies account for nearly three-fourth of their revenue earnings and the trend to increase these for populist purposes was extremely dangerous.

Other recommendations of this Panel are the need for improving tax collections in the States and ensure better tax compliance and recovery. Further, the downsizing of the State governments is very essential to do away with over-staffing and this could take place by taking specific and substantial measures, rather than increasing the staff, as is happening in most of the States. Another important area touched by the Report is the poor financial management in most of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). Most of the State PSUs are in dire straits and incurring losses year after year. Meagre resources of the States are spent in managing these undertakings and most of them are sick. Hence, the panel has suggested that rather than disinvesting the government equity in these enterprises, for which there may be no takers, it is better to sell most of them on outright basis, as valuable fixed assets are owned by most of them which may interest the private investors.

In addition to the above mentioned long-run measures, the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance have worked out a short-term bail-out package for the States. Those States who agree to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Finance Ministry to revise their electricity rates during the current financial year, would be given higher amounts of ways and means loans during the year 1999-2000. For long-term increased assistance, the States would have to promise to implement price revision in all the essential services over a longer period of time. The Finance Ministry also believes that the States will have to wipe out their revenue short-fall of over Rs 20,000 crore in a given time-frame.

It has rightly been said that the era of free lunches is over. Centre has done reasonably well to manage its finances and now it is the turn of the States to show their resolve in this field.

What good is Censorship?

The debate about censorship has been brought into focus once again by celebrated film-maker Shekhar Kapoor, who has taken strong exception to the cuts ordered by the Censor Board on his film, *Elizabeth*. He has even challenged Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), Asha Parekh, to a public debate.

The controversy has brought to light two aspects of censorship. On the one hand is the need for artistic freedom. On the other, is the need to protect the morals and values of society. Frequently, these two conflicting demands see a clash between artists and censors. In this issue, we debate the issue whether censorship is required at all.

Mr A Censorship is in the news once again. Film-maker Shekhar Kapoor found that cuts were imposed on his internationally acclaimed film, *Elizabeth*, and accused the Censor Board of arrogance and irresponsibility. But the controversy has not started with *Elizabeth*. Every now and then artists and film-makers depict something which is considered objectionable to the morals of society. When it is censored, they say that freedom of expression is being curbed. There are two assumptions here: first, that artists can depict anything that they like, and secondly, that society is not mature enough to accept or reject what is presented before them. The conflict between freedom of expression and protecting society often snowballs into a controversy, as it has now. There are two sides of the question and both sides are passionate about their point of view.

Mr B It is not a question of whether the society is mature enough or not, but whether artists are mature enough. In recent times, we have seen that any

two-bit artist can get fame by shocking or hurting the sensibilities of society. The trend was started by Salman Rushdie who wrote *Satanic Verses*. Mediocre artists and film makers found that this was a good idea to get instant fame. M.F. Hussain painted Saraswati in the nude, hoping that Hindus would be suitably offended and his picture would be printed in the newspapers. Film makers graphically depict crimes and rapes to titillate the audience. A disturbing trend has come to light—that film makers deliberately put in such scenes and when the Censor Board cuts them, the film gets free publicity. In the name of artistic freedom, certain people are misusing their artistic freedom. The question is, are the artists mature enough? The answer is no, and hence society needs to be protected from the mischief that they can cause. After all, it must be understood that the media has the potential to ignite communal passions and hatred among communities, not to speak of encouraging crime by graphically depicting it and glorifying it. A new fashion is to look at criminals and terrorists with sympathy—films like *Maachis* and *Dil Se* try to show terrorists as victims of circumstance and play for sympathy of the audience. Such films usually win awards. I feel society must be protected from such misplaced sympathies. There is no freedom for expression when a murderer is sought to be glorified. I would say that censorship is not only right but it is not being done well enough when movies glorifying criminals are passed for general viewing.

Mr C Some artists may well fall into the category that you describe. But I think we have a right to know both sides of the picture. Taking your

example, if we criticise criminals, we can never hope to change the circumstances that give rise to such individuals. Why don't we leave it to the people to decide what they want to see and what they don't? After all, if people do not like a particular film, they will not see it. The same goes for books and works of art. When we have a Censor Board, it is assumed that people do not know what is good for them and the government must protect the people from the mischievous artists. I feel this is not right. It is giving power to the government in an area in which it has neither the expertise nor the right to interfere. If a thing is worthless or offensive, who will give money for it? Thus artists and film makers will learn not to try and create a sensation. On the other hand, once a work is banned or cut, not only is there publicity but a curiosity is kindled in the minds of people to see what is so offending. The nude Saraswati should have been relegated to the dust-bin but the hue and cry that was created made the artist into a celebrity. Thus, censorship serves the opposite purpose—not of protecting society but to publicise works that are actually worthless.

Mr D You are partly right to some extent. But it is wrong to say that censorship does not serve any purpose at all. You assume that people are mature enough to choose what is right and wrong. But the fact is that nudity and graphic depiction of crime does attract people even though they know it is wrong. Young people get wrong ideas from it. In the USA, the rise of the gun culture and frequent shoot-outs has been attributed to what is shown on the media. Why do you think crimes against women in our own country are rising? It is because people see things

on the screen and know that they can get away with them. There have been cases when people have robbed banks and committed murders after watching movies. So how can all censorship be wrong? I see nothing wrong in protecting society from potential criminals. I also do not see any violation of freedom of expression if depiction of rape and crime is censored. If a work fans communal hatred or glorifies terrorism, it cannot be related to freedom of expression. I think we are stretching this freedom too far.

Mr E You are forgetting that modern technology has made censorship a joke. Today, we can download anything from the Internet. There are CDs available for just about anything. Cable television shows us things considered bad just a few years ago. When things are so easily available, what can censorship achieve? If we think we are saving the morals of society by censoring some lines or some scenes from movies, we are only fooling ourselves. Censorship is, in fact, an outdated idea that comes from the British times when the government had to control information so that nationalist feelings would not be encouraged. Today such ideas are outdated. The government is simply meddling in something over which it no longer has any control. It should not waste its energies in trying to protect culture: people should be allowed to choose what they want. In developed countries like USA and France, there is little censorship, but people have not given themselves up to orgies and enjoyment. In the UK, the tabloid press has sensationalised everything, but these papers are in trouble now as there are few readers who find anything worthwhile in them. In Scandinavian countries, there is no censorship but pornography is a dying industry. Even in India, cheap movies which run in morning shows find very few takers. I would say that the government should stop bothering about such things and do better things. Society will look after

itself and there is no need to appoint guardians of culture.

Mr A The issue here is less about culture but more about crime and violence. A person can hardly be blamed if he is tempted to try out the same. Let us accept that movies, television and printed matter are strong influences. Self-censorship is the ideal solution. The trouble is that India is a huge country: inequalities are very great and it is home to people of many religions. Anything depicted in the media has the potential of destabilising society. We know that the communal situation in the country is volatile. Rumours can spark off riots. Without censorship we may end up facing conflagrations every few weeks. Other countries did not face such problems. So it is wrong to compare the situation in India with those of other countries. In India we certainly need censorship. When we have lots of irresponsible people, we surely need a regulating mechanism. Till the time that artists and film makers do not show restraint, we need a Censor Board. It is wrong to say that all censorship is bad.

Mr C Censorship may be justifiable in some cases as you have mentioned. The trouble is that government officials often behave in an arrogant manner and think that they have the right to cut out anything, whether it makes sense or not. Even those connected with films, like Asha Parekh, start behaving like power-happy bureaucrats when they are given the charge of Censor Board. Anyone who is in any position of power becomes arrogant. This is more than evident in the recent controversy about *Elizabeth*. The censor has cut out one word saying it was obscene and a scene in which a head is shown impaled on a pole. These things sound quite silly, considering that the word may well have been missed by the audiences and in any case few people would have known its real meaning. As for the scene of a head, the violence that we see in Hindi movies is far

worse. The Censor Board has not acted responsibly in this case, if we consider three questions: did it hurt any religious sentiments? Was it depicting a crime? Did it incite communal feelings? Censoring an internationally acclaimed movie on frivolous grounds can certainly not be justified. In the past too, such things have happened: scenes have been cut from movies and when the film maker went to the Minister of Broadcasting, the objections are withdrawn. Why do we need this sycophantic culture? It only encourages bribery and corruption. So my objection is that censorship gives unnecessary power to petty officials and to people who just want to exercise their power. There should be a way of stopping arbitrary actions in the name of censorship.

Mr D We have had a lively discussion and many points have been raised. I think we are in agreement that some censorship is necessary, at least for a country like India, where religious and communal sentiments can be easily hurt. When it is becoming fashionable for irresponsible artists to paint obscene pictures, when great people like Mahatma Gandhi can be denigrated through plays and articles, when advertisers show sexual acts to sell shoes or ice cream, there is certainly a need for censorship. At the same time, there is need to have certain guidelines for the censor board so that arbitrary decisions are avoided. Before any scene or word is cut, it would be necessary to ask whether it hurts religious sentiments or is otherwise mischievous. The absence of guidelines has given undue power to the censors. The group agrees that censorship is not bad *per se*, but the way that it is being done must be reviewed to avoid controversies in the future.

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Business GK

Business GK is a feature of many management entrance tests. This feature gives the latest Business GK to help you update of the latest happenings in the corporate world

Directions for Q. 1-7: Given below are seven company logos. Match the logos with their companies:



(a) Apollo Tyres



(b) C-Dot



(c) Exim Bank



(d) HDFC



(e) National Insurance



(f) Piaggio



(g) Shell

8. "Flexibonds" are issued by which of the following companies?

- (a) IDBI (b) ICICI
(c) SBI (d) HDFC

9. 'A Brilliant Sun', a film by Zafar Hai, is a biographical movie on which of the following industrialists?

- (a) Ratan Tata (b) S.P. Godrej
(c) Aditya Vikram Birla
(d) Dhirubhai Ambani

10. Which Indian company won the "Best of the Best Supplier" award from General Motors (GM), USA, for the third time?

- (a) Modi Xerox (b) Maruti Udyog

- (c) Mahindra & Mahindra
(d) Sundaram Fasteners Ltd

11. Tropicana Fruit Juice, which has been launched on a trial basis in the country, is a brand owned by which of the following companies?

- (a) Coca Cola (b) Pepsico
(c) Tang (d) Sunkist

12. Name the cold drink company which has been involved in a contamination charge in Europe?

- (a) Coca Cola (b) Pepsico
(c) Schweppes (d) Sunkist

13. The brand "Becosules", which has been re-branded recently, belongs to which of the following companies?

- (a) Ranbaxy (b) Pfizer
(c) Cadila
(d) Smithkline Beecham

14. The brand "Captain Cook" has been sold recently. Which of the following companies have acquired the brand?

- (a) International Bestfoods Ltd
(b) Hindustan Lever Ltd
(c) Glaxo (d) Henkel

Directions for Q. 15-25: Match the advertising slogan with the company/brand:

15. Nobody cares as much
(a) Tata Steel

16. Where money lives
(b) DHL

17. Better Answers
(c) Microsoft

18. The Fastest Way Home
(d) Nokia

19. Applying Thought
(e) Essar

20. Every Second Counts
(f) Taj Group

21. Complete Transportation Solutions

- (g) Citibank

22. The Gold Standard

- (h) Wipro

23. Connecting People

- (i) HCL Beantalk

24. Where do you want to go today?
(j) Compaq

25. Where you come first
(k) Piaggio

26. The chocolate brand "Munch" has been launched by which of the following companies?

- (a) Cadbury's (b) Amul
(c) Nestle (d) Candico

27. Which company has won the A&M "Country's best marketing company" award for 1998-99?

- (a) BPL (b) Coca Cola
(c) Titan (d) LG Electronics

28. KPMG is a

- (a) financial accounting company
(b) merchant banking company
(c) market research company
(d) management consultancy

29. The Jamnagar refinery belongs to which of the following companies?

- (a) IOL
(b) Reliance
(c) HPCL
(d) Essar

30. The 'da Vinci' laptop notebook has been launched by which of the following companies?

- (a) Philips (b) IBM
(c) Videocon (d) Intel

31. The soft drink "Sprite" has been launched by which of the following companies?

- (a) Coca Cola
(b) Pepsico
(c) Cadbury Schweppes
(d) Duke's

32. The letters 'LG' in LG Electronics stand for:

- (a) Lamped USA Group
(b) Lapaz Goods
(c) Lucky Goldstar
(d) Lazarus Group

33. According to India's Human Development indicators brought out by NCAER, which State has emerged top among all States, in terms of providing

the best quality of life, including education and health-care?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Punjab
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

34. David Ogilvy, who died recently, was connected with which of the following fields?

- (a) Marketing
- (b) Finance
- (c) Human Resources
- (d) Advertising

35. "Dare to Dream" is the biography of which of the following business leaders?

- (a) JRD Tata
- (b) MS Oberoi
- (c) Aditya Birla
- (d) Swraj Paul

36. With market value of Rs 34,210 crore, which company is the most valuable company, according to a recent survey of the 500 most valuable companies in India?

- (a) Hindustan Lever
- (b) ONGC
- (c) ITC
- (d) Infosys

37. In the above survey, which public sector undertaking is the most valuable company in India?

- (a) ONGC
- (b) Indian Oil
- (c) State Bank of India
- (d) MTNL

38. With sales of \$ 161 billion, which company heads the list of Fortune 500, the largest corporations of the world, according to the latest annual ranking by Fortune magazine?

- (a) Ford
- (b) Microsoft
- (c) General Motors
- (d) General Electric

39. Which is the only Indian company (ranked 278) in the list of the world's largest corporations, the Fortune 500?

- (a) ONGC
- (b) Indian Oil
- (c) State Bank of India
- (d) SAIL

40. In the list of 500 largest companies, which of the following countries has the maximum number of companies?

- (a) Germany
- (b) USA

- (c) Japan
- (d) Finland

41. Which of the following is the largest bank of the world?

- (a) Deutsche Bank
- (b) Citibank
- (c) HongKong Bank
- (d) Credit Suisse

42. Which company is the world's largest employer, with 11,90,000 employees?

- (a) General Motors, USA
- (b) US Postal Service
- (c) Sinopec, China
- (d) Toyota, Japan

43. Which of the following is not a financial institution?

- (a) ICICI
- (b) IDBI
- (c) LIC
- (d) IIPA

44. Spot the odd one out:

- (a) KPMG
- (b) Goldman Sachs
- (c) Price Waterhouse Coopers
- (d) McKinsey

45. Aquafresh toothpaste has been launched by which of the following companies?

- (a) HLL
- (b) Colgate Palmolive
- (c) Balsara
- (d) Smithkline Beecham

46. Stroh's beer has been launched by which of the following companies?

- (a) Mount Shivalik Breweries
- (b) McDowell's
- (c) Shaw Wallace
- (d) Modern Breweries

47. The "Dettol" brand belongs to which of the following companies?

- (a) Smithkline Beecham
- (b) Hindustan Lever
- (c) Reckitt & Colman
- (d) P & G

48. What is "Oral-B"?

- (a) Contraceptive pills
- (b) Toothbrush
- (c) Water purifier
- (d) Medicine

49. Which company advertises itself as "The Vision of Sound".

- (a) Kenwood
- (b) Bose
- (c) Sony
- (d) Samsung

50. Which company manufactures the

7 o'clock brand of razor blades?

- (a) Gillette
- (b) ISPL
- (c) 7 o'clock
- (d) Malhotra Shaving Products

51. Which company manufactures the VIP brand of suitcases?

- (a) Aristocrat
- (b) Blow Plast
- (c) MRF
- (d) Piramal

52. Whose signatures would you find on one-rupee notes?

- (a) Minister of Finance
- (b) Governor of RBI
- (c) Prime Minister
- (d) Secretary, Ministry of Finance

53. Where are the Headquarters of UTI located?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Calcutta
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Surat

54. Which company, which earlier used the advertising punchline "A Positive Attitude", has defaulted on its payment of GDR recently?

- (a) SAIL
- (b) Essar
- (c) Air India
- (d) Ispat

55. The brand "YKK" would be found on which of the following products?

- (a) Computers
- (b) Shoes
- (c) Safety pins
- (d) Zippers

ANSWERS

1. (d) 2. (b) 3. (f) 4. (e) 5. (a)
 6. (c) 7. (g) 8. (a) 9. (c) 10. (d)
 11. (b) 12. (a) 13. (b) 14. (a) 15. (f)
 16. (g) 17. (j) 18. (f) 19. (h) 20. (b)
 21. (k) 22. (e) 23. (d) 24. (c) 25. (a)
 26. (c) 27. (d) 28. (d) 29. (b) 30. (c)
 31. (a) 32. (c) 33. (a) 34. (d) 35. (a)
 37. (a) 38. (c) 39. (b) 40. (b) 41. (d)
 42. (c) 43. (d) 44. (b) 45. (d) 46. (a)
 47. (c) 48. (a) 49. (d) 50. (b) 51. (b)
 52. (d) 53. (a) 54. (b) 55. (d)

SCORING

45-55 correct : V. good

40-45 correct: average

Below 40 : Please brush up your Business GK!

The Competition Master's Guide to Opportunities

This feature alerts our readers about forthcoming examinations and opportunities. Institutes should send us information well in advance to be included here. Readers are advised to assess their own suitability and that of the institute before applying—this feature is not a recommendation of any course or institute.

Correspondence Courses

1. **MA (various subjects), M.Sc (psychology) Diplomas in Labour Law and Taxation, MCA**—Eligibility: Pass graduation for Masters course. Last date: October 15, 1999 for MA, M.Sc and M.Com courses, October 29, 1999 for diploma and MCA courses. Apply to: Director, Institute of Correspondence Education, University of Madras, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005 with a DD for Rs 100.

Management

1. **Common Admission Test (CAT) for 6 IIMs and other institutes**—To be held on December 12, 1999. Eligibility: Graduation. Last date: October 12, 1999. Forms available at SBI branches on payment of Rs 900. Forms also available under exceptional circumstances from: In-charge Admissions, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore - 560 076 with a DD for Rs 950.

2. **PG Programme in Management (PGPM)**—Eligibility: Bachelor's degree with minimum 50% marks. Written test: CAT on December 12, 1999. Last date: December 10, 1999. Apply to: Chief Administrative Officer, Management Development Institute (MDI), Mehrauli Road, Sukhrali, Gurgaon - 122 001 with a DD for Rs 800. Also apply to CAT. E-mail: gpadmn@mdi.ac.in. Website: www.mdi.ac.in.

3. **PG Diploma in Management (PGDM) in Family Business (PGDM-FB)**—Eligibility: Bachelor's degree with minimum 50% marks. Written test: CAT on December 12, 1999. Last date: December 8, 1999. Apply to: Admissions Coordinator, TA Pai Management Institute, Manipal - 576 119 with a DD for Rs 800. Also apply to CAT. E-mail: tapmi@mahe.ernet.in.

4. **PG Programme in Forestry Management (PFM)**—Eligibility: Bachelor's degree with minimum 50% marks and 50% aggregate marks at school level. Written test: CAT on December 12, 1999. Last date: December 7, 1999. Stipend: Rs 1500 per month. Apply to: Coordinator, PFM Admissions, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Post Box 335, Nehru Nagar, Bhopal - 462 003. E-mail: cad@iifm.org. Website: www.iifm.org.

Merchant Navy

Admission to TS Chenakya, New Mumbai, and Marine Engineering and Research Institute (MERI), Calcutta—

Examination: IIT-JEE on January 2 and May 7, 2000 (see Admission Alert, September, 1999). Last date of receipt of applications: March 17, 2000. Age limit: 20 years. Application forms available from January 10, 2000 at selected branches of Syndicate Bank and is to be sent to: Directorate General of Shipping, Jahaz Bhawan, Walchand Hirachand Marg, Mumbai - 400 001.

Scholarships

1. **Research fellowship in Tribal Development**—Eligibility: Research scholars with a background of social sciences, agriculture, medicine, who are already registered for Ph.D/post-doctoral with a recognised university. Rate of fellowship: Rs 3,200 per month. Last date: September 30, 1999. Apply to: Director, Tribal Development Division, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Room 212, 2nd floor D wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 001 in the prescribed format. For details see advt published on August 7, 1999.

2. **Biotechnology Overseas Associateship**—Eligibility: Ph.D/M.D degree in an area related to biotechnology. Last date: September 30, 1999. Apply to: Senior Scientific Officer 1, Department of Biotechnology, Block II 6th floor, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003 on the prescribed format. For details see advt published on August 7, 1999.

3. **Swarnajayanti Fellowships**—Eligibility: Ph.D in science or engineering, Masters in Engineering or Technology, MD in Medicine. Age between 30-40 years. Fellowship amount: Rs 25,000 per month. Last date: September 30, 1999. Apply on the prescribed format to: Dr PKB Menon, Joint Adviser, Department of Science and Technology, Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi - 110 016.

4. **German Academic Exchange fellowship**—Subjects: bio-engineering, bio-pharmacology, metallurgy, environment science, agronomy, veterinary science, horticulture and animal husbandry. Eligibility: PG degree with first division and 2 years of teaching or research experience. Last date: September 30, 1999. Apply to: Ministry of Human Resource Development, External Scholarship Division, ES-1, Section A-1/W.3, Curzon Road Barracks, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi - 110 001.

5. **Fujitsu Asia Pacific Scholarship Program 2000-2001 for business programs**—Eligibility: Bachelor's degree equivalent to the four-year baccalaureate degree in any discipline, GMAT score of 550 or above, grade point 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, TOEFL score of 600 or above, and three years work experience. Last date: October 31, 1999. Apply to: JAITS Coordinator, Fujitsu Ltd, Mercantile House, 15 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi - 110 001.

Descriptive Questions

Looking after Kargil Heroes' families

Q. Suggest three effective measures to look after the families of Kargil Heroes, both dead and disabled. Say how the steps suggested by you would produce the desired results.

Ans. A war is always soaked in the sacrifices of the dead and the disabled, alongwith the sufferings of the kith and kin of war heroes who lay down their lives against all odds. A grateful nation like India, though fully alive to the daunting task of providing succour and sustenance to the families of those who have lost their most precious members, must remember that if we are living today the officers and soldiers on the war front have faced the bullets on their persons on our behalf. It is the moral duty of one and all that we waste no time in converting our care and concern for the bereaved families into some very tangible and telling actions so that the woes and worries that visit the affected families after every war are mitigated to the maximum possible extent. No doubt, the dead cannot be revived, nor the major disability turned into ability or normalcy. Despite these human limitations, the following measures, if taken promptly and conscientiously, will go a long way in looking after the immediate and long-term interests and needs of the dependents of war heroes.

The announcement by the Central government to speedily allot five hundred 'gas agencies' to the widows/dependents of martyrs of Kargil war is the first most meaningful step towards the rehabilitation of the affected families. The intended help meant for the most deserving cases would prove the bona-fides of the government. In order to give a practical shape to the proposal, the procedural wrangles

and red-tapism should be done away with.

Donations pouring into the relief funds should be spent exclusively for benefits to the war widows and disabled soldiers and their families with an element of transparency and accountability. Besides generous grants that the State governments have announced for those killed or maimed, it is in the fitness of things that suitable jobs are given to the eligible dependents, both by the States as well as the private sector, so that the sufferings of the affected persons/families are shared in equal measure, by one and all.

A workable plan to set up nodal centres in the States from where the majority of officers and soldiers have become martyrs or national heroes, should be given a serious consideration. The widows and children of the martyrs and the disabled soldiers can contact these centres and seek guidance and assistance in matters that can ensure their welfare and rehabilitation.

Changing names of Indian cities/towns

Q. How do you view the trend to change the names of Indian cities and towns? Express your critical but considered views on the subject as the matter concerns one and all. Your views should be based on knowledge, experience and ground realities.

Ans. What could be more ironical or contradictory than the fact that the language of the 'British Raj' continues to hold hostage our senses and sensibilities. The names of some Indian cities and towns that the erstwhile British Rulers had changed to suit their tongue, have become an anathema to all. Changing a horse in the mid-stream may be a risky adventure, but

changing the names of cities and towns, that have gone into the vocabulary of the people of all shades, seems to have become a passion—a hot pursuit. The advocates of the 'change in names' argue that if the names of some countries like Ceylon to Sri Lanka, Burma to Myanmar, Rhodesia to Zimbabwe, etc could be rechristened without much inconvenience or opposition, there should be no unnecessary raising of hackles or eyebrows if Bombay, Madras and now Calcutta have become Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, to name a few cases only. Tomorrow Delhi may become Dilli or Dehli.

In a democratic set up like ours, emotive issues like renaming cities may mean a lot more to the people than an economic issue that concerns their daily bread and butter. In some cases, any delay, deliberate or otherwise, may bring the people on the streets and create a law and order problem for a matter that is hardly going to make any difference to their social status or economic well-being. Many a time, it hardly enters into the comprehension of the people who clamour for such a 'change' that the entire exercise can mean incurring wholly avoidable expenditure worth crores of rupees over printing of new stationery, changing hoardings and communicating the change through print and visual media by the State concerned, public sector undertakings, corporate/private sector and similar other trade and commercial agencies.

Those who are in the vanguard and most vocal and vociferous in making such a demand fully know and thus exploit the gullible tendency of the people. The poor people are taken for a ride and in the name of language, culture and identity, they are fed on fears if the name of their city, town or even State is not changed to suit some ancient myth or mystery. Chauvinism is

made to occupy the centre stage of politics and no serious thought is given to the fact that people's pressing problems cannot be solved simply by re-naming cities, but only by making serious efforts to address them first and then by taking concrete steps in the right direction. The Indian polity has been crying for some succour in areas of safe drinking water, healthy environment, need-based housing, basic education and the like, but the master-minds have been hood-winking them with sermons and slogans all the time.

An objective observer of the current Indian socio-political scene would sum up the enigmatic exercise of renaming cities as 'political in nature and artificial in content'.

State elections under Central rule

Q. Some right thinking persons feel that for fair and free elections to State Assemblies, the State concerned should be placed under the Central Rule three months before the scheduled date of elections. Give two arguments in favour and two against the proposition.

Arguments in favour of the proposition

1. There is no gainsaying the fact that in a parliamentary democracy the principle of equal opportunities to all should not only be observed in letter and spirit but also should appear to be adhered to in all situations. The basic idea behind the proposal put forth by some very right thinking persons is that such a step would ensure level playing ground to all political persons and parties who wish to try their luck at the hustings. The cardinal content and context of democracy at play gives an eminent place to impartiality for free and fair poll and in order to achieve this objective, the ruling party in the State needs to be replaced by the Central rule, three months prior to the elections.

2. The experience so far has shown that the ruling caucus resorts to many a concession and populist promise to lure the voters once the election schedule is an-

nounced. Notwithstanding the operation of 'model code of conduct', the functionaries of the government, particularly the ministers and their hangers-on, try to exploit to the hilt their advantageous position and thus enjoy a certain amount of advantage over their rivals. This is certainly the negation of the principle of equality of opportunity and this can be checked only if the proposition under reference is implemented.

Arguments against the proposition

1. Easier said than done, may be the correct reaction to the proposition advocated by some right but naive-thinking persons. The States may be brought under the Central rule during the elections but what about the elections to the Lok Sabha? Don't we need a similar safeguard there as well? If we really do, what is the way out? Perhaps none at the moment, because there is no provision for the President's rule at the Centre under the Constitution. If elections to the State Assemblies can be influenced by the party/parties in power, the same is true about the Centre. Moreover, let us not forget the fact that more often than not, only pliable political persons are appointed Governors under whose rule most of irregularities can take place as well.

2. The experience so far does not hold a very rosy picture on this front if the conduct of political persons as Governors is assessed and analysed. As human beings they have all those strengths and weaknesses that go with the Chief Ministers and Ministers. The best course to ensure free and fair polls is to educate, enlighten and awaken the masses to their rights. Nothing more or less can work wonders in this matter.

Big dams versus displaced persons

Q. "Big dams displace people in large numbers." In the light of this fact, there is an urgent need to review the necessity of having big dams in a country like India. Express your views on the subject that has aroused so much controversy.

Ans. 'Refugees in their own country' is a painful paradox with which millions of displaced persons have to live and suffer. The displacement of so many tribals and others has come about as a result of construction of big dams over the years. The agony of the affected persons is heart-rending. The tearful tale of losing one's heart and home before one's eyes, in the rising waters of dams, is not a fiction but a fearful fact of our national life. No doubt, if the pathetic or sorrowful side of the story is true, the other side of the picture is equally rewarding and re-assuring. Had there been no big dams like the Hira Kund or Bhakra (Nangal), the country would have faced a shocking shortage of power for fields and factories as well as water for irrigation and drinking. The dream of Green Revolution, which Indira Gandhi Canal has made a robust reality and rendered Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan a virtual bowl of the ever-increasing wheat stocks, would have mocked at us even today.

If the opposition of the *Narbada Bachao Andolan* organisers deserves consideration for sake of the persons who are likely to be displaced and the environment being harmed, the requirements of the farmers of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, the drinking water needs of so many millions are equally urgent and immediate. In the current situation it is not too late to have a national debate, if it can defuse the crisis or distrust, on the merits and demerits of constructing big dams with the objective to evolve a consensus and minimise the damage caused to the environment and the local population.

As compared to surface water irrigation, ground water irrigation has proved twice as productive as surface water irrigation. Ground water holds forty per cent of the total irrigation potential. It can be further replenished through run-off during the rainy season and floods by building trenches over the irrigated lands. Ground water irrigation is more convenient as it is available at any time and involves no soil erosion, ecological damage and displacement of human beings.

OCTOBER

India

The array of significant events which took place during the months of October in the Indian history include. Royal Proclamation effectuating Partition of Bengal on October 16, 1905; Gandhiji deciding on October 31, 1921 to spin daily before second meal and to forego the meal in case he failed to do so; pronouncement of death sentence on Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru and Sukhdev in Lahore Conspiracy case on October 7, 1930; inception of Air Force (RIAF) in India on October 8, 1932; expulsion of 'rebel' Dr N.B. Kher by Congress Working Committee from Congress on October 2, 1938; Subhash Chandra Bose inaugurating on October 21, 1943 the Provincial government of Free India in Singapore; responding to Lady Mountbatten's greeting on his birthday on October 2, 1947, Mahatma Gandhi saying, "...more proper to offer condolences than to offer congratulations, I do not wish to live long"; Indian Cabinet agreeing to accept the accession of the J & K on October 26, 1947; Jawahar Lal Nehru inaugurating Andhra Pradesh on October 1, 1953; Dr Rajendra Prasad inaugurating Chandigarh on October 7, 1953; Dr B.R. Ambedkar and about 200,000 of his followers embracing Buddhism in Nagpur on October 14, 1956; China launching treacherous attack on both Ladakh and North-Eastern Frontier territories of India on October 20, 1962; Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, on October 2, 1965, while cutting his Birthday cake—Replica of Patton Tank, saying *hamne bhi ek tank toda*; Atal Behari Vajpayee addressing UN General Assembly in Hindi on October 4, 1977; launching of National Adult Education Programme on October 2, 1978; Kapil Dev making his Test debut on October 16, 1978; launching of Janata Dal at Bangalore on October 11, 1988; Kumari

Meera Fathima Beewi becoming the first woman judge of the Supreme Court on October 5, 1989; Kiran Bedi becoming first woman to win German's Joseph Beuys Prize on October 22, 1997.

Dedicatory

Anne Besant, the Irish woman who became staunch supporter of Indian freedom movement, was born on October 1, 1847

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, was born on October 2, 1869 at Porbander

Pablo Picasso, the pioneer of Cubism and the leading figure in the history of 20th century Arts, was born on October 25, 1881.

Niels Hendrick David Bohr, the Danish Physicist, known for his contributions in the Nuclear Physics and in the Organising Atoms for Peace Conference in 1955, was born on October 7, 1885.

Le Corbusier, noted French Architect of the fame of Chandigarh, was born in Switzerland on October 6, 1887.

Gustav R. Kirchhoff, the German Physicist of the fame of Kirchhoff's Law, was born on October 17, 1824.

International

Prominent events which took place during the months of October in the International history include: Austria annexing Bosnia and Herzegovina on October 6, 1908; Portugal becoming Republic on October 4, 1910; Bulgaria declaring independence from Turkey on October 5, 1910; beginning of First Balkan War on October 8, 1912; establishment of Yugoslav Republic on October 17, 1918; establishment of KLM on October 7, 1919; screening of the first talking feature film, *The Jazz Singer*,

in New York on October 6, 1927; changing of official name of Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes to Yugoslavia on October 3, 1929; Germany withdrawing from the League of Nations on October 14, 1933; Japan invading South China on October 12, 1938; Italy declaring war on Germany on October 13, 1942; formation of World Federal of Trade Unions on October 3, 1945; establishment of Food and Agriculture Organisation on October 16, 1945; United Nations coming into being on October 24, 1945; beginning of execution of Nazi War Criminals at Nuremberg on October 16, 1946; proclamation of People's Republic of China with the installation of Communist government under Mao Tse Tung in Peking on October 1, 1949; Peking announcing invasion in Tibet on October 25, 1950; USA launching the aircraft carrier *Saratoga*, the world's most powerful warship, on October 8, 1955, commencement of Space age with the launching of *Sputnik 1* by Russia on October 4, 1957; North Korea registering a 100 per cent turn out in the elections with 100 per cent votes for the Workers Party of Korea on October 8, 1962; Kossygin becoming the Prime Minister and Leonid Brezhnev the first Secretary of the Communist Party on October 15, 1964; UN Assembly voting Communist China in and Taiwan out of UN on October 26, 1971; assassination of Anwar Sadat, the President of Egypt, on October 6, 1981; Steffi Graf achieving historic Golden Slam by winning Gold Medal in Olympics on October 1, 1988; emergence of FGR with the union of West Germany and East Germany on October 3, 1990; veteran cosmonaut Vladimir Titov becoming first Russian to walk in space from an American Shuttle on October 1, 1997.

General Studies Scene

Solved Questions from Previous Years' General Studies Question Papers

Q. 1. The caste system and the practice of untouchability were major targets of attack from the social reform movements, which grew in strength after the revolt of 1857. Indicate the main factors, which gradually undermined the caste system and brought into sharp focus the evils of untouchability. What was the role of Mahatma Gandhi in the eradication of untouchability and to what extent did he influence the framers of the Constitution and government policy in this regard? What further steps should be taken to wipe out untouchability? (Not more than 200 words)

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1981)

Ans. 1. Caste system was one of the major areas of reforms advocated by the social reforms movements after 1857. The caste system in Hindus at that time determined the larger areas of their lives. With a pre-decided hierarchy of status of castes, the lowest of the four castes were considered to be untouchables, who suffered from numerous and severe disabilities and social restrictions. In some parts of the country, the very shadow of *shudras* was avoided by the people of so-called upper castes. These "untouchables" could not use the water sources reserved for the upper classes, could not enter the temples and had to undertake unclean jobs like scavenging, shoe-making, skinning the dead animals and tanning skins of the animals etc.

British rule released many forces which undermined the caste system in Hindu society. Introduction of modern industries and road communications systems like railways and buses ensured mass contact of people of various castes. New opportunities forced a Brahmin to be a soldier or doctor, or trade in skins or shoes for growth of his business. The close connection between the caste and vocation could hardly continue in modern industrial and urbanised society. The government also opened the doors of administration to all the castes and the educational system was secular and opposed caste distinctions. In addition to above, many social reform movements like the Brahmo Samaj, the Prarthna Samaj, the Arya Samaj, the Rama Krishna Mission, the Theosophists and the Social Conference, all attacked the caste system as well as the practice of untouchability. All the reformists also realised that national unity and progress in political, social and economic fields could not be achieved so long as millions were deprived of their right to live with dignity and honour.

One of the social objectives spearheaded by Mahatma Gandhi was the abolition of untouchability. In 1932, Gandhiji founded the All India Harijan Sangh for this purpose. Gandhiji, in particular, opposed untouchability, as there was no sanction for it in Hindu religious scriptures. But even if any *Shashtra* approved of untouchability, this was against human dignity. Gandhiji also argued that truth could not be confined within the covers of a religious book.

Gandhiji's views were reflected in the Constitution of India also, as the framers of the Constitution were greatly influenced by them. It has provided for a legal framework for finally abolishing the untouchability. The Constitution of India provides for abolition of untouchability and forbids its practice in any form. The Constitution also forbids any restrictions on the use of wells, *Ghats*, tanks or access to the shops, restaurants, hotels or cinema halls. The Directive Principles of State Policy lay down that the State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and

protecting social order in which justice shall be ensured in all the institutions of social life. In addition to the provisions in the Constitution, we need to bring in attitudinal changes among the people, which can only come by education and better and improved social interaction.

This feature has been specially prepared to help the aspiring candidates of Civil Services (Mains) examination have an idea of type of questions that are asked in the General Studies paper and the way these questions are to be answered. This issue, like the previous issue incorporates questions from previous papers. November '99 issue will carry expected questions. Readers are invited to send us any specific topic or question that they would like us to include in this feature.

Q. 2. (a) Unemployment in India is of many types and therefore a complex issue. Describe the nature of the problem and the measures adopted to deal with it, particularly in rural areas. (About 150 words).

(b) In the emphasis placed by the planners on the primacy of the rate of economic growth, scant attention has been paid to the structural and ideological objectives of planning in India. Critically examine this statement. (About 150 words).

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1982)

Ans. 2. (a) Unemployment is one of the most difficult problems facing the country today. Educated unemployment as well as unemployment among the unskilled workers have achieved serious dimensions in India. Being a developing economy facing a gradual but certain transformation of occupational structure, Indian economy has been plagued by a very high incidence of unemployment during the last about three decades. Although unemployment is a universal phenomenon, yet this problem is of many types in India, making it a highly complex issue.

With about two-third of India's population still dependent

on agriculture and allied activities, seasonal unemployment in the rural areas is galore. In addition, land holdings being relatively small, having many shareholders, the disguised unemployment is also rampant in the rural areas of the country. This combination of seasonal and disguised unemployment results in low productivity of land, on the one hand, and very low productivity of the labour force, on the other.

Similarly, Indian economy also faces a lot of voluntary unemployment. With increasing education levels, the number of university graduates and post-graduates is increasing rapidly. Since the education system lacks professional and skill-development inputs, most of the educated youth are eligible for clerical and other white-collared jobs. Moreover, preference for jobs in the government sector has also helped in the rise of voluntary unemployment, where the workers want to work only in government sector, and even if employment is available in private sector, they are not willing to work. Similarly, under-employment is yet another dimension of unemployment problems in India.

Since independence, the government has adopted several measures to tackle these problems, particularly in the rural areas. Many schemes aimed at providing seasonal employment to the agricultural labours in rural areas have been introduced from time to time. At present, such a scheme is called *Jawahar Rozgar Yojana* in rural areas and *Nehru Rozgar Yojana* in the urban areas. In addition, several self-employment schemes are also introduced from time to time, aimed at tackling the problem of under-employment as well as disguised unemployment. The process of industrialisation is also aimed at providing employment to the surplus labour in the rural areas.

Ans. 2 (b) One of the most important indicators of economic development for any country is the average annual growth rate of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which is also called the rate of economic growth. During the past about five years, after the policy of liberalisation and reforms was adopted by the country, the rate of growth of Indian economy has been ranging between 5 to 7 per cent, which is satisfactory, considering the fact that during the first three decades of economic development, this rate hovered around 3.5 per cent per annum.

Policy-makers in India are often accused of adopting policies which are aimed at increasing the rate of growth of the economy, ignoring the qualitative aspects, including poverty alleviation, equitable distribution and control of economic resources, social development, balanced regional development and various procedural reforms relating to the structural reforms, including the infrastructural reforms. As a result, despite being one of the high growth economies in the world today, about one-third of the total population in India still lives below the poverty line, and Human Development Index-1999 gives a poor ranking of 132 to India in 176-country index. This clearly indicates that while planning is made every year to achieve higher levels of rate of growth of the economy, the aspects of socio-economic development and related subjects like education, sanitation, safe drinking water, gender equality etc are ignored.

It would, however, be wrong to presume that nothing has been done in India towards qualitative upliftment of the economy.

Every year sizeable investment is made in the social sector as well as related fields like health and sanitation, providing safe and potable drinking water, education and even poverty alleviation programme. However, considering extremely large size of our population, the impact of all these measures is not visible. At times, investment in these areas is neutralized by the increase in population in the corresponding period.

The accusations of ignoring these fields have been more prominent after 1991 when the country opted to go in for liberalisation and policy of structural reforms. Though the overall rate of growth of the economy has been rising, it is doubtful whether the qualitative aspects of growth are being fully looked after. As per one report recently published, the number of people living below poverty line increased after 1991. Further, with the gradual shift towards free market economy, it is said that the benefit of growing income is accruing to the rich only and the process is resulting in widening the gulf between the rich and the poor. Notwithstanding the government claims and efforts, it appears that complete dependence on the so-called "trickle down" policy may not yield the desired results in socio-economic sectors and the government may have to come out with a specific package to give human face to the policy of structural reforms.

Q. 3. What changes, according to you, have taken place in the power structure in rural India in recent decades? (about 150 words)

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1985)

Ans. 3. After independence, during the last about five decades, power structures in the rural areas have undergone discernible change. At the time of independence the political power in the rural areas mainly vested in the hands of erstwhile *Zamindars* and landlords, who owned most of the lands and traditionally wielded power. Due to rampant poverty and illiteracy at that time, people in the rural areas looked forward to this class of people for leadership, which was wealthy and literate.

But the last five decades have witnessed many significant changes in the rural areas, which have, in turn influenced the power structures too. Levels of literacy have gone up considerably. The scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have risen in economic and social status due to the constitutional provisions providing reservation in services and representation to the Parliament, State Legislative Assemblies and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The advent of PRIs in many States in 60s and 70s gave rise to new breed of local leaders like *Sarpanches*, members and chairpersons of the Block Development Committees and members and chairpersons of Zila Parishads. After the constitutional status was given to the PRIs recently, things have further changed.

Another factor which acted as a landmark in change in power structure in the rural areas was the implementation of land reforms. Most of the States implemented the land reforms in the decade of 70s with utmost honesty of purpose and as a result, big landed estates were abolished and surplus land was allotted to the landless persons. The tenants were given ownership rights and the curse of tenancy was abolished. This also removed the tradi-

tional influence of *zamindars* and landlords from the rural areas and new socio-economic equations emerged and natural leaders of the people came to the fore.

The process of transformation is not yet over. As per one study, the share of farmer class in the Lok Sabha has been rising, outnumbering the professionals. So much so that the 12th Lok Sabha had the highest proportion of farmers or persons dependent on agriculture, while the first Lok Sabha had professionals from various fields in majority. This change in power structure is going on and the coming two decades are expected to see even more changes, resulting in strengthening of Indian democracy at the grassroot level.

Q. 4. There have been allegations about malpractices in the process of elections to the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha. What are the major malpractices reported by political parties, mass media, etc? What remedial measures have been taken by the Chief Election Commissioner in this connection? Have you any suggestion to offer on further measures, which can be taken to eliminate or reduce such malpractices? (Not more than 200 words).

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1982)

Ans. 4. Malpractices during Parliament and Assembly elections have become very common now-a-days. The Election Commission, from time to time, has been devising the ways to check such malpractices as are brought to its notice by the political parties and mass media. Some of the common malpractices include booth capturing by the armed men and forcible voting in favour of any political party or individual candidate and proxy voting by impersonation. In addition, there are several other malpractices which include insertion of the names of bogus voters in the electoral rolls, misuse of power by the party in power, offering benefits to individuals or community and deputation of convenient officials on poll duties.

Chief Election Commissioners, during the recent years have taken several measures to check such malpractices. Some of the measures include:

(a) A detailed code of conduct for the political parties, candidates and the governments in power is set to be in force immediately on announcement of election schedule. The code of conduct prohibits misuse of official machinery and vehicles, fresh announcements and inaugurations, government functions, ad-hoc employment and promotions, transfer of officials and particularly those connected with the election work. Code of conduct is being enforced vigorously by the Election Commission these days and at times, the orders issued by the governments in violation of the prescribed code of conduct are declared null and void by the Election Commission. During the previous elections to Lok Sabha, one District Collector was ordered to be transferred during the process of elections due to his allegedly partisan activities.

(b) Chief Election Commissioner has ordered the preparation of photo-identity cards for all the electorates, with a view to prevent proxy and bogus voting. Preparation of such voters' cards is over now.

(c) Polling is nowadays spread over three to four phases in

the country to ensure that adequate police force is placed at the disposal of the States as per their demand to make sure that incidents like booth capturing do not take place.

(d) Revision of electoral rolls is not allowed after the schedule of elections is declared by the Election Commission.

In addition to above measures already taken, the following additional measures are also suggested:

(i) Persons with criminal record should be debarred from contesting elections

(ii) Persons violating the code of conduct should be debarred from contesting of the elections for next six years.

(iii) The system of having care-taker governments during the elections should be done away with and a new system of governance during the elections should be evolved.

(iv) Considering that coalition governments are there to stay, to prevent post-poll malpractices, a system should be evolved to ensure that a party or group supporting a particular government, must continue to do so upto atleast two and a half years, failure to do so must debar them from being members.

Q. 5. (a) Summarise the reasons for which Western Powers opposed the imposition of mandatory economic sanctions against the racist Pretorian regime. How far were these arguments valid? (About 150 words)

(b) What is public interest litigation? What are the circumstances contributing to its prominence in recent times? (About 150 words)

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1986)

Ans. 5. (a) Till recently, South Africa was known for its policy of apartheid i.e. the policy of racial discrimination against non-whites. The Pretorian regime did not allow the non-whites the liberties, which were available elsewhere in the world to the humanity. The non-whites in South Africa did not enjoy several important political rights, several of which could be termed as fundamental rights, liberties of moving about in the entire country and eligibility for higher government posts. Ironically, when most of the countries in the world were independent and sovereign, the native black majority in South Africa was forced to lead a life of socio-economic and political subjugation.

Surprisingly, the UN Human Rights Organisation which criticized India for so-called Human Rights violations in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, did nothing for emancipation of blacks in South Africa. Developed countries of the West, including the United States of America, which tries to look for flimsy grounds to impose economic sanctions on developing countries, never imposed any such sanctions on the racist South African regime. Such glaring was the policy of apartheid of Pretorian regime that they did not even play cricket with non-white countries like India, Pakistan, West Indies and Sri Lanka during these years.

The developed West never ever imposed economic sanctions against the South African government during these obnoxious decades. Main reason for opposing these sanctions was that South Africa was the main supplier of the diamonds and gold to the world and sanctions against her would have invited counter-sanctions from South Africa, which would have affected their own

economies. Another hidden reason was the intentional but hidden policy of racism actually followed by the western countries themselves, and in the guise of their national self-interests, they themselves supported the racist policy of South Africa indirectly, they themselves being whites and anti-black. Further, Cape Town in South Africa is an important port for inter-continental commercial ships, and the western countries never wanted to lose this port by antagonising the South African regimes.

The arguments put forth by the western countries against economic sanctions against South Africa were neither logical nor valid. It was the most prominent example of double talk by the western countries as well as so-called human rights organisations.

Ans. 5. (b) Indian Constitution does not provide for any term such as Public Interest Litigation (PIL). Upto mid-eighties, there was no such term in vogue in India. It was in mid-eighties that the then Chief Justice of India, Justice J.N. Bhagwati accepted this term as Constitutional and started admitting the PIL petitions of larger national interest in the Supreme Court of India and started issuing suitable directions/judgements on such issues. PIL is thus of recent origin and any citizen of India can file a PIL in the Supreme Court or any High Court on any issue, which is in larger interest of the society or the nation. The petitioner need not be an aggrieved party personally. The subject could vary from pollution to education and even to government policies affecting the society in general. Even imposition of President's rules and dismissals of the State governments have been challenged in the PILs. Recently, President's decision to ask Vajpayee government to seek a vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha, upon withdrawal of support by the AIADMK, was challenged in PIL petitions.

Also termed as judicial activism by some, PIL has recently got prominence in the country to the extent that at times, one wonders whether this country is following correct policies only due to the decisions taken in various PILs by the Supreme Court and several High Courts. One of the important factors which resulted in prominence of PILs is that even when there is nothing in law to oppose a particular decision of the government, any citizen may move the apex court on the grounds of larger public interest. Moreover, orders in various important PILs were given adequate importance and coverage by mass media which, in turn, caught the fancy of the general public, who started looking forward to the courts as the saviours of democracy and liberties of citizens in the country. Moreover, the courts also disposed off important PIL petition on priority, which also generated interest among people. PIL has emerged as a tool which has adequately proved that Judiciary in India have come of age and is one of the most independent judicial systems in the world.

Q. 6. Answer the following: (Answer to each question should be in about 150 words).

(a) Discuss the importance of Article 32 of the Indian Constitution.

(b) "There are political personalities but no political parties in India." Comment.

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1987)

Ans. 6. (a) Fundamental Rights are the most important part

of the Constitution of any democratic country. Indian Constitution is no exception and Part-III of the Indian Constitution dealing with Fundamental Rights is certainly the most important part outlining the true democratic spirit of the Constitution, giving a guarantee of the fundamental rights to the citizens of the country.

But mere declarations of the Fundamental Rights in the Constitution are of no use, unless effective remedies are also provided to enforce them. It has been seen over the years in various countries that the reality of existence of the Fundamental Rights is tested only in the courts. Article 32 of the Indian Constitution provides for remedies for effective enforcement of the Fundamental Rights. Hence, this Article assumes significant importance, being a guarantor of these rights. It has been seen in the past that the power of the courts to enforce obedience to such rights depends not only on the independence of judiciary but also on the effectiveness of provisions to do so. The following safeguards are provided to the Fundamental Rights:

(a) These Rights are guaranteed in the Constitution not only against the action of the executive but also from that of the legislature.

(b) The Judiciary in India is armed with the power to issue five writs of *habeas corpus*, *mandamus*, *prohibition*, *certiorari* and *quo-warranto*. Supreme Court of India and the High Courts of the States may issue these writs against any authority of the State, on a petition filed by an individual whose right has been violated.

(c) There are other remedies like declaratory suits or legal proceedings in the statute.

But Article 32, as a constitutional remedy for enforcement of fundamental rights, remains the corner-stone of the entire edifice of the Fundamental Rights. Described as the most important Article in the Constitution by Dr B.R. Ambedkar, Article 32 provides a guaranteed remedy, which itself is one of the Fundamental Rights, being included in Part-III of the Constitution. Where infringement of any such right has been established, the Supreme Court cannot refuse relief. Any law passed in contravention of this Article is to be declared *ultra vires* by the courts.

Ans. 6. (b) The political scene in India for the first three decades remained dominated by one party, the Indian National Congress. During these 30 years, the party was dominated by its prominent leaders like Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Indira Gandhi. During 1977 elections, certain political leaders, under the overall leadership and guidance of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan, got together and then formed the government, which could last only upto 1979 and after 1980 to 1989, the political scene in India was greatly dominated by Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. The years 1990 and 1991 again witnessed a change in government mainly due to charismatic personality of V.P. Singh, followed by the Congress government under P.V. Narasimha Rao upto 1996.

During all these years, various parties have formed the governments from time to time, but more than political parties, generally the personalities have always mattered. Congress Party right from the beginning has the culture of glorifying its leader, and whenever there were minor splits, most of the partymen have preferred to toe line with the leader. This party has always tried

to encash the individual charisma of their prominent leaders. Even in the 1999 election the party pinned its hopes on the charisma of Nehru family and projected Sonia Gandhi as its leader.

In addition to the Congress, other parties have also used the vote pulling power of their charismatic leaders, rather than projecting their party ideology and programmes. BJP, for example is heavily banking upon its political personalities like Atal Behari Vajpayee and Lal Krishan Advani. Even in 1977, the government revolved around the personalities like Morarji Desai, Jagjivan Ram, and Vajpayee, rather than any common national programme. Janata Dal government in 1990 was the result of V.P. Singh's meteoric rise on Indian political scene. Even in the present context, new parties are formed every day due to resignations, splits, re-naming and mergers but more than the names of such parties, (which also keep changing frequently) it is the party leaders' personality which is identified with a particular party. For example, people know that Sharad Pawar, Mamta Banerjee, Laloo Prasad Yadav, Mulayam Singh Yadav and Jayalalitha head one party each, but not a large percentage of common people, would be able to correctly name their parties.

Hence, it is correct to say to a large extent, that there are political personalities but no political parties in India. But in case of truly national parties like BJP and Congress, this statement may not be absolutely correct. In fact, in today's context, it would be more appropriate to say that there are temporary political coalitions and no long-run political ideology among majority of political parties in India.

Q. 7. Answer the following: (Answer to each question should be in about 150 words)

(a) There is a renewed emphasis on District Planning in India. Examine its rationale, past experience and scope for success.

(b) What are "administered prices", and what is their role? Examine their impact on general price level.

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1988)

Ans. 7. (a) Although the Constitution of India does not provide for any system for economic planning, yet Planning Commission of India was set up in India in 1951 for this purpose. In addition, Planning Departments have been set up in most of the States and this set up has been responsible for the process of economic planning in the country. During the decade of eighties, a concept of District Planning was evolved and the system was tried successfully. Today most of the State governments are also having District Planning in addition to the State-level planning. More particularly, after the three tier Panchayati Raj System was recently given the constitutional status, the importance of District and Block-level plans, to be formulated and implemented under the control of Zila Parishads and Block Development Samitis, has increased tremendously.

Even before the District Planning was introduced in a big way in most of the States of the country, certain States had experimented with District Plans. Rationale behind District-level Planning is that the planning needs must be ascertained from below, i.e. the grass root level, and the plans should not be imposed from the top. Leaders and officers of a particular district understand

the planning needs of a particular district in a much better manner rather than planners sitting at the State or national level. Hence, it is always better to cater to the locally-felt planning needs.

Past experience shows that in absence of a well-defined system for District Planning, even this type of planning may not yield the results. Unless proper planning cells are formed with planning experts as well as planning committees with representation to the local leadership, it would not be possible to achieve the desired results. In many States, district planning funds have been used as discretionary funds by the district collectors and have been allocated by them on their own discretion or on the behest of political leaders of the district.

With the much awaited constitutional status already given to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), it has now become obligatory on part of the States to have district planning cells as well as committees. In many States, chairpersons of Zila Parishads have been made ex-officio chairpersons of the district planning committees also. Even the Eleventh Finance Commission has been given an additional term of reference with a view to strengthen the finances of the PRIs and in the hope of getting additional finances for PRIs, many States, though reluctantly, are giving more and more financial autonomy, including the planning functions, to these institutions. The prospects of local-level planning, particularly the district-level planning are very bright if the States introduce this mechanism in true earnest.

Ans. 7. (b) After independence, India chose to adopt a mixed economy for its economic development, which meant co-existence of the private sector as well as the public sector. In pursuance of the same policy, and also with a view to protect the consumer from wide fluctuations in respect of certain goods of day to day use, the government adopted a policy of administered prices. These prices generally extend to the items production and supplies of which are generally controlled by the government. Goods like petrol, fertilizers and LPG are at present covered within the gambit of administered prices. Other commodities which have remained under such mechanism are diesel, coal, cement etc. While cement and sugar have had dual price mechanism at one point of time, cement was fully decontrolled and sugar continues to have dual price mechanism, i.e. administered price mechanism for the supplies to the public distribution system and open market prices for sales in open market.

The prices are controlled and announced by the government from time to time for these commodities. Generally, the commodities under the administered price are either short in supply or suffer from the market fluctuations. The administered price mechanism plays an important role in firstly keeping a check over their prices in the market as well as ensure their availability. It also protects the common man from wide fluctuations in the price levels of these commodities, most of which are classified as the essential commodities.

Administered prices also play a sobering effect on the general price level in the country. For example, lesser and controlled prices of diesel would keep the freight rates low, thereby keeping the general price level low. Another example is that of fertilizer, and if the prices of fertilizer are kept low, overall cost of the farm

produce remains low, keeping the general prices of the agricultural products at a lower level. Prices of LPG, coal and petrol are also controlled with a view to protect the common man.

Q. 8. What were the main reasons for the decision of the Britishers to leave India after transferring the power to the people of "British India" and the 'Rulers' of Indian States? (Not more than 150 words)

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1980)

Ans. 8. During the second world war, the very foundations of the British Empire all over the world were considerably weakened and India was no exception. Towards the end of the war, a few other important incidents took place which forced the Britishers to leave India. Some of the reasons, which forced the British to transfer the power to Indians well before the announced date of June 1948, are as under:

(a) The world war shattered the economy of the Britain, and the USA and erstwhile USSR emerged as the two super powers in the world after the war. Both these countries favoured early independence of India and put pressure on the British to leave India.

(b) Back at home, the Conservative Party lost the elections to the Labour Party many members of which vehemently supported the cause of Indian independence.

(c) Main instrument of the British control over India was the Army. But the experience of Indian National Army (INA) clearly indicated that the feeling of patriotism had entered the rank and file of Indian Army and the Britishers could no longer rely on this organisation to suppress the revolts and Satyagrahas of Indian masses.

(d) In addition, the confidence-level and the mood of Indian people was now obvious. They had started resisting the foreign dominance.

(e) Large-scale labour unrest all over the country was also responsible for this decision of the British government. Strikes by Railway workers and the workers of post and telegraph department took place in 1946. In 1945, peasant movement also emerged afresh, creating an atmosphere of mistrust.

All the above reasons coupled with high level of nationalist feeling among the Indians forced the Britishers to send in March 1946 a Cabinet Mission to India to negotiate with the Indian leaders the terms of transfer of power to the Indians. Finally, Lord Mountbatten was sent to India as Viceroy in March 1947, to work out a compromise and carry out the exercise of actual transfer of power.

Q. 9. The following table gives product of labour (in units of wheat) per square Km of land:

Number of men per Sq Km	Total output Per Sq. Km	Average Product per man
1.	50 units	50 units
2.	164 units	82 units
3.	285 units	95 units
4.	400 units	100 units

5.	500 units	100 units
6.	576 units	96 units
7.	630 units	90 units
8.	656 units	82 units
9.	656 units	73 units
10.	640 units	64 units

Examine the above table. Assuming that the land is of the same type, labour is equal in efficiency and the inputs (e.g. type of implements, fertilizers, seeds etc.) are the same, set out briefly your conclusions with regard to the most economical number of men to be used. Why does productivity decrease though units of labour employed go on increasing?

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1980)

Ans. 9. A close examination of the above table reveals that the highest average product per man is 100 units when total output per Sq Km is at 400 with 4 men employed, as well 500 units when 5 men were employed per square Km. Hence most economic number of men per Sq Km would be 5 when average product per man is the highest at 100. At this level, the marginal output (*i.e.* the incremental output over the previous level) is also 100 and as per the theory of economics also, the optimum equilibrium takes place when marginal output equals the average output, which also takes place at this level of number of men. Beyond this point productivity decreases with additional men deployed due to the operation of the law of diminishing returns, particularly in the field of agriculture.

Q. 10. 1407 men and 1072 women participated in a poll about a certain measure. 1206 persons, of whom 737 were male, voted for the measure. In all 938 voted against the measure and 201 women were indifferent. Tabulate the data and find what percentage of women were against the measure.

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1984)

Ans. 10.

RESULTS OF OPINION POLL

Male/female → Voting pattern ↓	Male voters	Female voters	Total voters (Male + Female)
Voted for	737	469	1206
Voted against	536	402	938
Indifferent	134	201	335
Total	1407	1072	2479

Hint: If all the given figures are put in the above table, the remaining figures can easily be worked out by simple arithmetical operations like addition and subtraction. It is suggested that the readers should practice this simple exercise.

$$\text{Percentage of women voted against the measure} = \frac{402}{1072} \times 100 = 37.5 \text{ per cent}$$

What can India do to improve the morale of soldiers, considering they are fighting a difficult war?

—Subhash Chandra Nayak, Kargil

The recent show of patriotism and the generous contributions to the Army Relief Fund shows that India—the country and the people—stand behind our soldiers who have fought a difficult war. In the long run, better rehabilitation policies and compensation to the injured would enhance their morale. Today, soldiers are held in high esteem by the society, which can

be seen by the fact that despite the danger, many families still send their youth to the armed forces. It is because of the soldiers that Indians live in security. They know that any attack on the border will be dealt with severely.

I have 48% in my graduation. Am I eligible for MBA?

—Falguni Sengupta, Calcutta

Many institutes have the eligibility of 50 marks in graduation for applying to MBA. However, many other institutes do not have this criteria. The CAT conducted by the IIMS, for instance, just mentions graduation as the eligibility. I look out for admission notices of other institutes since each institute may have its own eligibility criteria. However, if you do not have the aptitude, it may be better to consider another career option.

What is the difference between asteroid and star?

—Dhirendra Patel, Ahmedabad

Asteroids are minor planets ranging from a few feet in diameter to 470 miles, most of whose orbits lie in the asteroid belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. Stars, on the other hand, are much bigger—they are incandescent balls of gases held together by gravity. The sun is an example of a star.

I would like to know about e-commerce. How can I get a job in



ASK THE MASTER!

e-commerce?

—Ujjal Upadish Bhattacharya

We have done a detailed cover story on e-commerce in our July '99 issue. It should answer all your queries. To get a job, get training in e-commerce from a reputed institute and you will surely get a good job.

What are the prospects after doing a course in Environmental Management?

Ankan Ghosh, 24 Paraquas
(W. Bengal)

Though environmental awareness is increasing, the course of environmental management has not picked up in India. Usually, companies prefer engineers for such jobs. The only scope would be in teaching or with NGOs and voluntary organisations.

To apply for MBA, do I have to fill up CAT and other forms?

—Rahul Gupta, New Delhi

The CAT is a common test, the scores of which are used by many institutes for admission purposes. You have to fill up the CAT form and also the forms of individual institutes to apply for admission. CAT will merely send your score to the institute concerned, and IIMs have no say in admissions or conduct of the course in individual institutes.

Can a person who is convicted in a Court as criminal, enter into government

service?

—S. Srinivas, Dharapuram,
Tamil Nadu

A person who is convicted in a court as a criminal cannot take up government jobs.

How was the concept of taxation invented?

—Abhay Kumar Ojha,
New Delhi

In the olden times, when the principal occupations were farming and fighting wars, people paid to be protected from fighting hordes.

This became converted to taxation, or a fixed percentage of income was paid by everyone to the rulers. Later, the kings also started taking up public works from the revenue collected. The concept of taxation is thus very old. It finds mention even in Kautilya's texts.

Modern taxation serves three purposes: a) to meet government expenditure on public services, administration and defence; b) as a means to promote social justice; and c) control of the economy.

Who made the Statue of Liberty and when?

—S. B. Mondal, Rankuna, West Bengal

The Statue of Liberty is a 152 feet copper female figure on Liberty Island in New York Harbour. It was designed by Frederic Bartholdi and was given to the US by France on the 100th anniversary of US independence. It went into a major \$70 million restoration in July 1986 and was marked by four days of celebration around the harbour.

I am in class 10 and want to become an IPS officer. Is there anything I should start doing from now?

—Kamaldeep Kaur, Hundal, Abohar
(Punjab)

It is good that you have decided on a career early in life. To achieve your goal, you can start on two things from now. First, develop your general knowledge.

and mental skills for the examination. Choose subjects which will help you clear the examination and study from the point of view of examination. Read THE COMPETITION MASTER regularly. Secondly, an IPS Officer must be fit and fine. So you can start exercising and develop your body too.

How can a manned probe be sent to Jupiter?

—*Satyam Kumar, Sheikhpura (Bihar)*

The very high gravity of Jupiter will crush any spacecraft which attempts to land on it. Thus, a manned probe to Jupiter does not seem to be a possibility in times to come. However, a probe could be sent on one of Jupiter's moons.

How does Computer-Aided Paperless Examination System (CAPES) work?

—*Ranjan Kumar Biswas, 24 Paraganas (West Bengal)*

A software programme allows students to attempt the questions by clicking on choices displayed by the Computer. All questions are to be answered on computer screen. After the allotted time, the computer calculates the score automatically. Many exams, like the GMAT, today follow this pattern.

I want to join the National Institute of Design. How can I proceed?

—*Namrata Gautam, Bilaspur (H.P.)*

Appear in the NID entrance test after class 12 or after graduation—there are two programmes, the school leavers' programme and the advanced entry programme. For more information, please write to: National Institute of Design, Paldi, Ahmedabad—380007.

My aim is to do MBA. Is it advisable to do B.Com or BBA before it?

—*Tripti Sumani, Kanpur (U.P.)*

It would be worthwhile to do a BBA course from a reputed institute recognised by the government or an established university. If there are no such institutes available near your place of residence, it may be better to do a conventional B.Com course. Start preparing for MBA entrance exams along with B.Com and try to get

into the better institutes.

I am interested in appearing for the GATE examination. When does the notification appear and what is the procedure for applying?

—*G. Rajeshwar, Karimnagar (AP)*

The Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) is usually held in February every year. The notification appears in October. The eligibility is BE, B.Sc or integrated masters degree. The forms for GATE are available at SBI branches, IITs at Delhi, Mumbai, Kanpur, Kharagpur, and Chennai. They are also available at Indian Institute of Science. Look out for the notification in October. It is also featured in our 'Admission Alert' column.

Can army officers try for civil services after their service? Do they get any antedate seniority if they join the civil services?

—*K Loganathan, C/o 56 APO*

Army officers can try for the civil services if they fulfil the eligibility conditions. In the civil services notification, there is no mention of any preference or antedate seniority. However, you could check up from UPSC if any preference is to be given to army officers.

Is there any course in MBA related to computers and information technology?

—*S. Panda, Sambalpur (Orissa)*

There is usually a paper in all MBA courses related to computers. However, if you want to do a specialisation, you should specifically look for institutes that offer MBA with a specialisation in information technology. Many institutes these days are offering such combinations.

It is mentioned that dams are actually being blown up in the developed world. Is this true?

—*K. Swaminathan, New Delhi*

Yes. In USA alone, more than 50 dams have been blown up. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is refusing to re-license dams where the environmental costs outweigh the value of the hydropower. It has been found that

the power produced by them is too little compared to the damage they cause—in many cases they prevent salmon and other species of fish from reaching spawning grounds. In the future, more dams are expected to be demolished in USA and other developed countries.

I want to do a course from Australian or UK universities, which are advertised very much these days. How good are they?

—*Rahul Bajaj, Trivandrum*

It is true that foreign universities advertise heavily these days. If your objective is just to get a degree, they may serve the purpose, otherwise please ensure that they are recognised in India. Many of them are not. If you go abroad, you have to understand that visas are given only for duration of the course. Many countries do not extend visas for taking up employment and the student has to return to India. Weigh all the possibilities before you take up foreign courses, as they are very expensive.

What does STAR TV stand for?

—*Arvind Kumar, C/o 56 APO Satellite Television Asia Region.*

What is difference between rocket, satellite and missile?

—*Musafir Baitha, Sitamarhi (Bihar)*

A rocket is the means by which a vehicle is propelled. A satellite is put in orbit around planet (moon is a natural satellite of the earth) and a missile is an explosive device fired at enemy camps.

I am in my second year. Should I start preparation for competitive exams right now, since I am weak in maths?

—*Atul Vaish, Allahabad (UP)*

Starting early is a wise decision, since maths calls for a lot of practice. If you are weak, there is all the more reason to start right now. Constant practice over two years will help you understand the concepts as also build up your speed. You can take some books or correspondence courses for the purpose and keep practising whenever you get time. In this way, you will be able to score well in competitive examinations.

Improve Your Word Power

1. **absolve:** (a) forget (b) clarify (c) discharge (d) sink.

2. **botch:** (a) repair (badly) (b) walk (awkwardly) (c) soften (d) harden.

3. **cosset:** (a) withdraw (b) protect (c) advance (d) retreat.

4. **didactic:** (a) entertaining (b) interesting (c) visual (d) instructive.

5. **furbeLOW:** (a) simple living (b) cheap taste (c) unnecessary ornament (d) expensive dress.

6. **giggle:** (a) laugh (silly) (b) weep (bitterly) (c) hit (hard) (d) run (fast).

7. **hamper:** (a) help (b) prevent (c) prevail (d) offend.

8. **incrementally:** (a) carefully (b) faithfully (c) foolishly (d) increasingly.

9. **lethal:** (a) beneficial (b) immediate (c) productive (d) damaging.

10. **motley:** (a) multi-lingual (b) multi-faceted (c)

many-coloured (d) much-maligned.

11. **nitty-gritty:** (a) distant dreams (b) rising expectations (c) basic facts (d) unbridled demands.

12. **ominous:** (a) inauspicious (b) rare (c) popular (d) famous.

13. **peregrination:** (a) hobby (b) journey (c) picnic (d) destination.

14. **ruse:** (a) trick (b) prayer (c) achievement (d) ambition.

15. **stodgy:** (a) frank (b) dull (c) deceptive (d) blunt.

16. **tawdriness:** (a) greatness (b) humility (c) keenness (d) cheapness.

17. **up (v):** (a) shrink (b) deny (c) increase (d) explore.

18. **valour:** (a) charity (b) bravery (c) virtue (d) pride.

19. **wraith:** (a) ghost (b) saint (c) scholar (d) hang-man.

20. **zero (v):** (a) deceive (b) receive (c) focus (d) endorse.

frills and *furbeLows*.

6. **giggle:** (a) laugh (silly).

—The teacher advised the children to stop *giggling* as the matter was serious.

7. **hamper:** (b) hinder, prevent.

—Our progress was *hampered* by the bad weather.

8. **incrementally:** (d) increasingly.

—The economic imperative of normalising Indo-Pak relations is yet to *incrementally* permeate civil societies in both countries.

9. **lethal:** (d) damaging, harmful.

—The closure of so many factories dealt a *lethal* blow to the economy of the town.

10. **motley:** (c) many-coloured, incongruous.

—The circus-clown wearing a *motley* collection of old clothes evoked loud laughter among the spectators.

11. **nitty-gritty:** (c) basic facts.

—The meeting got down to discussing the *nitty-gritty* of the first matter on the agenda.

12. **ominous:** (a) inauspicious.

—Those black clouds are a bit *ominous* for the uphill journey.

13. **peregrination:** (b) travel, journey.

—Accompanying him on his *peregrinations* is a work

ethic that will perhaps last longer.

14. **ruse:** (a) trick.

—He can always think up a *ruse* for getting into the cinema without paying.

15. **stodgy:** (b) dull.

—Having risen from the ranks of the Akademi over the decades, she was possibly *stodgy* and complacent about her security as an employee.

16. **tawdriness:** (d) cheapness, showiness.

—The enquiry report exposed the completeness of chairperson's mendacity (untrue statement) and *tawdriness* of his tastes.

17. **up (v):** (c) increase.

—By making unreasonable demands every now and then, coalition parties seem to have *upped* the ante

18. **valour:** (b) bravery.

—The unprecedented *valour* shown by Indian soldiers in the Kargil war will be recorded in history in golden letters.

19. **wraith:** (a) ghost, spectre.

—As a result of long illness, he was reduced to a *wraith*-like figure.

20. **zero (v):** (c) focus, fix.

—His bail application and petition to the Court *zeroed* in on the holes in the prosecution's case.

ANSWERS

1. **absolve:** (c) discharge, clear, pardon.

—The Court *absolved* the accused man from all responsibility for her death.

2. **botch:** (a) repair (badly), spoil.

—The mechanic tried to repair my car, but he really *botched* it up.

3. **cosset:** (b) protect.

pamper.

—For long the Indian industry was *cossetted* by heavy tariffs on imports.

4. **didactic:** (d) instructive, teaching.

—I don't like her *didactic* way of explaining everything.

5. **furbeLOW:** (c) unnecessary ornament.

—The 'book of essays' was ruthlessly devoid of froth,

CIVIL SERVICES/BANK P.O./RBI OFFICERS' EXAM SPECIAL

Questions on Social and Economic Problems

Q. 'The failure of the States to contain wasteful revenue expenditure and raise revenues has led to a severe fiscal crisis.' Discuss.

Ans. State finances, as a whole, which were somewhat healthy till mid-nineties, have deteriorated considerably over the last few years. In fact, most of the States are undergoing a fiscal crisis.

A few States have been undergoing fiscal strain intermittently over the past few years. Overall, however, all States taken together exhibited a somewhat stable and resilient fiscal position till some time back. There have been changes since 1997-98. Some critics point out that the proximate cause for this fiscal deterioration has been the impact of the pay revision following the Fifth Pay Commission recommendations.

There have been several other factors which contributed to this fiscal crisis. The gap between tax revenue potential and realisation has been widening in several States, especially in richer ones, over the last few years, mainly due to wide range of tax concessions for a variety of reasons. Non-tax revenues in real terms have been virtually stagnating in almost all the States. The implicit subsidies on non-merit goods and services like power, irrigation, transport and higher education have been mounting in several States.

On the whole, it is the inability of the States to contain non-productive and wasteful revenue expenditure and their unwillingness to raise revenues to meet the soaring revenue expenditure which has led to the current fiscal crisis. At present, the entire revenue expenditure on the plan side, and part of the revenue expenditure on the non-plan side, are being met from capital receipts. Since the non-debt capital receipts are either negative or negligible in almost all the States, the borrowed funds are used for meeting the revenue gap on the plan as well as non-plan side.

State governments have been Constitutionally restrained from unfettered borrowing. As a result, increasing revenue gap meant that less and less funds are available for investment. Share of capital expenditure in the State budgets has been sharply coming down in most of the States in recent years. To counter this trend, States have been encouraging their undertakings to borrow liberally from the market through bond/debenture issues for investment. These borrowings create State liabilities which have been mounting in recent years.

Another major problem with the borrowings of the States is that even when these funds are invested in productive assets, they do not generate sufficient financial returns to service the loans. Sometimes, the user charges for the products and services from such cases like irrigation, do not cover even the operation and maintenance costs of such assets.

Faced with such an alarming fiscal situation, States would have been helped if the share of Central taxes, plan funds and grants going to the States had been buoyant. Unfortunately, the situation has been just the reverse.

All major States have been showing increasing revenue deficits year after year in the recent period. This trend has to be reversed and can be done so by a two pronged strategy. One is to boost revenue receipts and the other to contain the growth of revenue expenditure. To boost revenue receipts, the States should put a full stop to competitive tax concessions and other giveaways which have been practised indiscriminately by them in the recent past, without any tangible gains in terms of additional private investments. Subsidies should also be made explicit and transparent. Such a move can reduce subsidy burden significantly which is estimated to be over 9 per cent of the GDP for all States together. Further, it is known that the im-

plicit subsidies are mostly enjoyed by those sections of the society which can afford to pay.

The main hurdle in containing the growth of revenue expenditure are the well-entrenched State bureaucracies. Wage bills should be cut and the level of efficiency of administration be improved. Fresh recruitment should be brought down to a level below retirement. This will automatically reduce the size of the bureaucracy.

Q. What are some of the major thrust areas that need attention in so far as agricultural development is concerned?

Ans. Development has helped India to achieve relative self-sufficiency in foodgrains and its imports have, in fact, become negligible. We have also been able to accumulate large buffer stocks of rice and wheat so that we could face any eventuality resulting from drought in a particular year or successively in two or three years. However, the achievements in agriculture should not make the government complacent, because there are still many thrust areas in which we must orient our agricultural policies in the interests of agricultural growth, with emphasis on sustainability and equity. Major thrust areas are:

(A) **Output and area under coarse cereals has shown negligible improvement:** Coarse cereals have been neglected and should be given attention in order to improve their production.

(B) **Stagnation in the output of pulses:** There has been a sharp decrease in the consumption of pulses which is a cause for concern more so for the poor for whom the pulses are a major source of protein.

(C) **Production of edible oils:** India is not self-reliant in the production of edible oils. The major oil seeds grown in India are groundnut, rape seed, mustard, sesamum, safflower, sunflower and

soyabean. The principal problem in oil-seeds production is low productivity. Not only is India way behind the developed countries, its productivity per hectare does not compare favourably even with respect to that of China. There are two important problems here: (i) edible oil imports are a continuous drain on our foreign exchange and (ii) for an important food item, India continues to depend on other countries of the world.

(D) New strategies of Irrigation and Water Management: A new strategy of irrigation should be directed towards the following: (i) control and proper method of irrigation in canal and tank command areas, specifically for paddy (ii) providing drainage and re-use of water facilities (iii) conjunctive use of surface and ground water (iv) using sprinkler irrigation in canal/tank command areas (v) introducing drip irrigation in well-irrigated areas (vi) training farmers and extension officers in water management.

(E) Shift emphasis in favour of minor irrigation: The new thrust should be towards minor irrigation because of their cheapness and quick benefits. Obsession with major irrigation works or big projects has raised the irrigation costs per hectare to prohibitive levels.

(F) Use of bio-fertilizers should be expanded: Recent researches in bio-technology and genetic engineering have demonstrated that certain micro-organisms can also act as nitrogen fixers and provide nutrients to crop plants. Bio-technology in fertilizers has been successfully exploited in developed countries, but several factors have hampered its use and propagation in India e.g. lack of trained personnel, lack of appreciation of the benefits of inoculation and absence of industrial support.

(G) Emphasis should shift to dry farming: Dry farming technology should be developed so that the possibilities of raising the potential output of vast dry-land areas be exploited. Problems of dry-land areas should be studied and region specific technology be developed.

Q. With reference to the Ninth Plan (1997-2002), explain what is India's Price Policy?

Ans. Economic development since

1951 has consisted of a large, continuous and sustained investment. To finance such investment, the government had to resort to heavy taxation, extensive borrowing and deficit financing. The first two methods of financing development consisted mainly in transferring financial resources from the general public to the government and were broadly non-inflationary—though indirect taxes definitely pushed up the prices through fueling cost push factors. The last method, i.e. deficit financing, led to an increase in the supply of money with the general public and consequently increase in the demand for goods and services. At the same time, the supply of consumption goods did not increase proportionately with the increase in the demand for them. Accordingly, inflationary pressures were generated in the country, initially at a mild rate, but during and after the Fourth Plan at a galloping rate. Inflation has become inherent in a fast developing economy and has led to:

(a) shift in emphasis from production to hoarding and speculation.

(b) distortion in the distribution of income—with heavy concentration of income in the hands of the rich and the growing pauperisation of the vast majority of the middle and lower income groups

(c) worsening of the external payments position by pushing up imports and inadequate rise in the volume of exports.

(d) adverse effect on saving, as the value of money is declining.

Even though some inflationary pressure is inevitable in a developing economy, it is essential that it does not hinder a steady and rising rate of economic growth. Therefore, the control of inflation was thought to be necessary. The important objectives of price policy are:

(a) The price policy should attain and maintain price stability, primarily in respect of food articles.

(b) Aggregate demand should be made equal to aggregate supply; monetary and fiscal measures have an important role to play in this sphere.

(c) The price policy should provide necessary incentives to stimulate production of all essential consumer goods.

(d) It should protect the vulnerable sections of the community, by effectively

checking the rate of increase of foodgrain prices (but this should not reduce incentives to greater production in agriculture).

(e) Price policies should be such as to establish some consistent relationships between agricultural prices, prices of manufactures and the prices of various services.

The components of price policy for growth should be: (a) minimum of price control and regulation (b) Dual pricing (c) Administered prices (d) Control of agricultural prices (e) Industrial prices (f) Control of expenditure (g) use of foreign exchange reserves (h) State trading and buffer stock operations and (i) public distribution system.

The problem of a suitable price policy in a developing economy arises largely owing to the existence of persistent pressure of inflation. Price stability need not mean freezing the price at a given level. Slow and steady rise in the price level has all the virtues of a constant price level and has in addition the power to infuse some amount of momentum to the economy. A cumulative but very slow rise in general price level is, therefore, not only permissible but indeed desirable. But prices should not be allowed to go out of control.

Q. Critically examine the working of the rural development programmes in India.

Ans. The rural development programmes have a two-fold thrust. On the one hand, these are meant to eradicate poverty, on the other these promote growth of the rural economy. Separate programmes were designed in order to cater to the special needs of the rural people. The rural people have gained in several ways. For instance,

(i) **Decline in poverty:** These programmes have been successful to a reasonable extent. Since the inception of these programmes in the early seventies, the number of the poor has gone down. There is an improvement in terms of those who have crossed the poverty line but this gives a partial picture of the gains. It is so because the poverty line itself, defined as it is only in terms of calorie-intake, is a narrowly conceived measure. There is also improvements in the lives of the poor in

terms of more drinking water which is now available to as many as 83 per cent of the rural population (1995). Sanitation facilities are also available to about 4 per cent of the rural population. More houses are available to the rural poor than before. Besides, the increase in the number of literate children and adults, as also the increase in the availability of health facilities, have contributed, however, little to an improvement in the quality of the rural poor.

(ii) **Increase in employment:** There has also been a rise in the work opportunities of various kinds in both the farm activities and non-farm activities. The employment generated has been both for the self-employed and those in the wage employment. There has also been more work for the underemployed or those in disguised unemployment. The seasonally unemployed in agriculture have found work in the non-farm activities as supplementary employment. The total employment generated has been considerable.

Those in wage employment have also benefitted because their wages in real terms have been protected. The part payment of wages in kind (*i.e.* cereals like wheat and rice) has in fact raised their wages as the foodgrains have been heavily subsidised. In rural areas where revamped PDS (Public Distribution System) has been introduced, income of the poor, both in self-employment and wage-employment has been raised in real terms, with foodgrains supplied at rates lesser than in the PDS elsewhere. The supply of foodgrains, as part of wages or through the revamped PDS, has another salutary effect. Since these supplies of wages have been drawn from the government's food stocks, these have, besides creating assets via consumption of the labour, reduced the carrying costs for the government. In short, employment creation has been beneficent in more than one way.

(iii) **Additions to productive capacity:** In the process of uplifting living level of the poor, and increasing opportunities of employment, these programmes have enhanced the productive capacity of the rural economy. There has been an increase in the physical assets like all weather roads, minor irrigation works, social forestry, buildings for schools, for health centres,

for vocational training, for production centres etc. Most of these assets are in the nature of infrastructure (like roads, irrigation works etc). As such these provide a facilitative support for further production.

The productive capacity has also increased because of the formation of human capital. Health facilities have added to the stamina and strength of the rural workers. Education and training have raised their skills and knowledge. All these have raised the efficiency of the people in general. Together with an increase in physical capital, human capital formation will make growth a self-sustained process. The association of people with development, (through the Panchayati Raj and voluntary institutions) provides an added strength to the productive capacity. Their involvement will make growth a pro-people phenomenon. It will bring forth the required resources, and generate enough enthusiasm for the implementation of the programmes.

There are certain shortcomings of the rural programmes also:

(a) **Dismal living:** The eradication of poverty, the primary objective of special programmes has not been achieved. About two-fifth of the rural population is still below the poverty line. After about 25 years of the working of some of these programmes, a great number of the rural people still live a life of destitutes. The worse is that the incidence of poverty continues to be very high in the poor States like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh. And among the poor, the worst sufferers belong to the already underprivileged social classes like the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes.

As far as the employment objective is concerned, there has been more work for more people. But this beneficial effect has been negated to a large extent by the rapidly rising labour force. More importantly, those in employment are not better off. They continue to work at very low levels of productivity and income. In fact, this has become a greater problem than that of the magnitude of unemployment.

(b) **Big shortfalls:** The working of the programmes has been deficient in several respects. In some important cases, the successes have been much short of targets. For example, in the case of the Integrated Rural

Development Programme (IRDP), the target was to cover 20 million households during the Seventh Plan. The actual achievement fell short by 2 million. This has been the fate of many other programmes. While the financial expenditure on these programmes has been quite large, almost equal to and in some cases, even in excess of the allocations, the results in physical terms have not been commensurate with the spendings. Another aspect of the unsatisfactory performance of the programmes has been the big leakages in their implementation such that the poor have been deprived of the benefits due to them.

(c) **Short of minimum needs:** There is a shortage even in the case of minimum needs. This is strangely so despite the fact that the targets of the programme seem to have been fulfilled. For example, primary education. As many as 90 per cent of the children have been enrolled but there have been many dropouts. The net result is very low literacy rate among the children. Also, drinking water—many villages have been covered by the facility. But the per capita per day availability of potable water continues to be much less than the desired 40 litres of water. The same is true of health facilities, electricity.

(d) **Deficiencies of development design:** The programmes themselves are faulty in some important ways. The aims of these programmes have been set in terms of employment-generation, asset-formation and meeting basic needs. These do not make one whole. Instead, these could be thought of as means subservient to the aims of income generation and quality of life (life expectancy, infant mortality, education etc) with special concern for the poor. Such a perception would have not only provided a clear vision of the tasks ahead. This would've also provided more meaningful tests to judge the results of the various programmes.

The programmes, except those meant for specific areas (like drought-prone areas, desert areas) have not provided for the different needs of development of various regions. As such these don't help in reducing the regional imbalances. Thus, because of inadequate implementation and faulty design, the programmes have not been satisfactory.

Information Technology in Designing

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the country. This points to a
in most computer courses are
mere "time pass" and add nothing
a good computer training is
a good training whether it is in software
engineering, e-commerce or Internet
technologies. The emphasis is on "hard"
because though many institutions
such courses, a majority of them

There are different paths to your dream
career. But a youngster is in danger of
getting carried away by the glamour and the
hype and take up careers which may neither be
glamorous nor well paying. It is important,
therefore, to keep the objectives clear.



For instance, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) is a new field and courses were snapped up by students. Some who went abroad found that their knowledge was useless and were actually sent back to India by their employers. Hence, the need to be careful while taking a computer course.

This has also been brought out by a survey conducted by the Indian Market Research Bureau (IMRB). It found that only 1.5 per cent of software programmers were from private training institutes. The majority of the jobs went to qualified software engineers or MBAs. People with diplomas and high-sounding degrees ended up as salespersons or chose other professions. Students who think that USA is waiting to welcome them on the basis of their diploma from a private institute are in for a rude shock. It is for this reason that computer education in the country has been described as "the great class-room robbery". As in other fields, it is advisable to realise that there are no short-cuts: get the best training if you want to be successful.

The following are some areas which are likely to be hot in the coming years:

Internet related: Web page designer, Web master, Administrator, application developers.

Embedded systems: Systems engineer, systems analyst.

E-commerce: Administrator, programmers.

Other applications: ERP, Database programming.

Preferred qualifications: BE, B.Tech in electronics or computer science, MS or M.Tech from IITs or regional engineering colleges.

Salaries: Starting salary could range from Rs 8,000 to Rs 15,000 depending on the organisation and nature of job. Good professionals earn salaries of over Rs one lakh per month.

Other jobs: Customer service, sales and marketing.

Qualifications: MBA, Diplomas in computers or sales.

Telecommunications

The telecom sector has witnessed a dramatic revolution in the past few years. Paging, cellular phones, VSAT and radio trunking have opened up a host of opportunities from engineering to sales. As technologies have merged, there will also be a huge demand for people who have integration skills. The only thing stopping the growth of the sector is the government. The telecom policy is in a mess, which has caused several companies to go slow in expanding operations. However, in times to come, the sector is bound to grow exponentially.

Opportunities exist in telecom engineering, installing and maintaining networks, sales and marketing. The jobs could be at junior levels in customer service or sales and in senior levels as managers and network administrators. Entrepreneurs could start agencies to represent the telecom companies in under-represented areas. Moreover, companies are providing value-added services, so telecom engineers are expected to be in demand in the future.

The following are some areas in which careers could be made in telecom:

Engineering: Telecom engineering,

customer support engineers, network engineering and maintenance
Preferred qualifications: BE B.Tech, B.Sc in electronics or communications.

Salaries: Starting salary Rs 6,000 per month.

Customer-related jobs: Customer service and support, sales accounts, etc.

Salaries: Starting salaries Rs 3,000 per month for freshers, going up in five figures for managers.

Entertainment

Films and television are the staple diet of Indians. A young crop of film makers have contributed to making India known for quality films: many of them find markets abroad as well. Television has long been a government monopoly, but cable television has resulted in many new channels and production houses. The industry has not grown as fast as it was expected and many channels have folded up, but the potential nevertheless remains.

Youngsters are attracted to the visual and glamorous side of the medium. Many people have dreams of becoming VJs or programme comperes on television. No qualifications are needed, but a "high grab effect", meaning that the comperes should be able to get the attention of the viewer quickly, in addition to high fluency in language and articulation, is a must. A large number of opportunities exist behind the camera as well, in the form of technicians, cameramen, sound engineers, script writers and so on. Journalists trained in the visual media are required by the news channels. Depending on what one is good at, one can choose one's field of specialisation.

Another related career that has recently opened up is that of animation and multimedia, again a result of convergence of technologies in information technology and television. Animated films are required for advertising and entertainment. The job involves designing of visuals, sound and mixing. Foreign companies may set up offices here to get the work done in India because of low labour costs, but quality must be delivered.

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The following are some areas in which careers can be made in the coming years:

Animation and Multimedia: Animator, artists and designers.

Qualifications: Ability to operate multimedia programs.

Salary: Starting: Rs 6,000, increasing to Rs 10,000 or more in 3-6 months.

Visible aspects in entertainment: Actors, comperes, news readers.

Qualifications: Diploma from Film

and Television Institute or others. For many jobs no formal qualifications are required.

Behind the camera: Sound engineers, lighting, cameramen, script writers.

Qualifications: Diploma from Film and Television Institute

Salary: Variable.

Producers, directors: Diploma from FTII, Pune, Xavier Institute of Communications, Pune, MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia, MICA, Ahmedabad.

Design

The Indian consumer is becoming aware of the products available abroad and is becoming design-conscious. Clothes and accessories are demanded by people which are both contemporary in design and attractive to look at. Many multinational companies have set up operations in India which has further made available the latest products in the country. Companies want trained graphic designers and product designers. Fashion and jewellery designers are also in great

How to get those high-paying jobs

Everybody wants a high-paying job. Though there are no hard and fast rules as to how this can be achieved, there are some skills that must be developed as they come in useful in almost all careers.

Have a professional degree? Many students have some abstract ideas about their skills, but have not sharpened them with professional training. It is true that some people have made big money with a professional degree, but it makes it harder to be accepted. Good institutions will select the better able students you are from the ones who are less prepared. The best thing is to work hard at the entrance tests in order to get into a good institution. Do not waste the college years in fun, enjoyment, or learning just for your graduate degree, but set your sights on making yourself ready to do the best work our ways in which you can be successful. You will be glad to have your degree.

...possible, speed

are required for most jobs. Students join expensive computer courses hoping that by doing so, they can get a job that pays them Rs 50,000 a month. While it is true that one should be computer literate, joining a course is unlikely to help. Look for specific skills required for particular jobs or professions and make an effort to get them. For example, if designing the course aims at a general course in Windows is unlikely to be helpful. Look for someone who has a program suited for training in skills that are needed. Avoid people who are overconfident.

[illegible]

Discovering Your Aptitude

The mistake that many young people do is to chase a five-figure salary without realising one's potential. Either one joins courses because friends are enrolling, or one gets pressured by parents. However, to be able to make a success of a career, it is important to discover one's aptitude.

For example, if one is an Introvert and lacks confidence, it would be useless to try for MBA. A gregarious person who likes making friends and is outgoing would most likely be unhappy in a job that involves a lot of desk work. Likewise, it is wrong to take a decision on the basis of glamour associated with certain careers. When young, it is easy to be misled or influenced by extraneous considerations.

How does one discover aptitude? Several career counselling agencies impart tests to discover the aptitude of people. Essentially, one should discover one's personality traits and what one is happiest doing. If you are good with your hands and draw things, consider a career in design. On the other hand, if you do not have a head for mathematics, going for computers or management would not be advisable.

demand. Demand for trained designers is more than their supply these days. Innovative designers, backed with professional training, are in great demand.

The premier institutes imparting design education are the Industrial Design Centre, IIT, Mumbai, the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad and the National Institute of Fashion Design (NIFT), New Delhi. The first trains students in product design, the second in graphic or interior design and the third is primarily into fashion design. New areas such as accessory and jewellery design are catching up fast. What is required is a flair for design, an understanding of the materials available and colour combinations. The field of fashion design is more or less saturated but other fields are opening up, such as textile design, which is a discipline in itself. Textile companies find that trained designers are in short supply.

Another related area is interior design. Designing homes, showrooms, offices, fall in its purview. The designer has to keep in mind the cost, the theme and lighting. Formal training is obtained in architecture colleges though many polytechnics offer courses varying in quality.

The following are some areas in which careers in design can be made in the coming years:

Product design: IITs, Engineering Colleges.

Starting salary: Rs 8,000 to Rs 15,000 a month.

Fashion design: Designers, production managers, export managers.

Qualifications: A course from NIFT, New Delhi and other cities, SNDT College, Mumbai. Several private institutes and polytechnics offer diplomas too.

Starting Salary: Rs 10,000, increasing to Rs 50,000 or more.

Jewellery, Product

and Accessory design: A course from NIFT or other fashion institutes, Gemmological Institute, Mumbai, Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.

Starting Salary: Rs 5,000 to Rs 20,000 a month, depending on quality of work.

Graphic design, Textile design: A course from NID, Ahmedabad. Arts colleges and polytechnics offer these courses also.

Interior design: B.Arch from NID, Ahmedabad, SPA, New Delhi, JJ School of Arts, and State Architecture colleges.

Management

The MBA remains a viable career option today, a ticket to senior management positions in companies. With the industrial climate in the country changing for the better, companies are expanding operations and launching new products. Multinational companies have come to India in a big way. They all want trained manpower to look after their operations and MBAs are thus in great demand.

The demand for the MBA degree is fuelled by media hype. Business magazines regularly carry salary surveys and pictures of young people earning Rs 50,000 a month. However, it is a high-

stress, high-risk career and certainly not for the timid. Students opting for management should remember that it often requires a change in attitude and personality: the Indian attitude of *chalta hai* is not appreciated by companies and aspirants often come to grief if they are not able to change themselves.

It may be mentioned that an MBA degree is worthwhile only if done from one of the better institutes. Many students who do it from little known institutes are often left without a job. Similarly, the BBA has been started to cash in on the craze for a management degree but is good only in a handful of institutes.

The implication is obvious: prepare well for the better institutes and clear their entrance exams. Develop personality and acquire the knowledge and skills required for the programme. In recent times, many foreign universities have set up shop in India offering the coveted degree. These courses should also be taken with caution as many of them are unrecognised both by the government and the industry.

Law

Traditionally associated with fighting cases for clients who have disputes with each other, the profession of law is now changing, thanks to liberalisation. Corporate law is becoming important because of joint ventures and foreign collaborations. Lawyers are much in demand as contracts have to be made between partners so that there is little scope of dispute later on. Changes in the business environment, such as in banking and securities, also requires lawyers who can understand and interpret the implications of provisions for their clients. Today, lawyers are becoming part of the corporate teams.

Another area that is gradually picking up is Patents and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Protection law. With India having signed the Paris Convention and TRIPS, the country's laws have to be amended. Researchers and inventors will look for protection of their work. With increased awareness about patents, there will be a growth in this area in years to

come. Further, as more companies come into the country, trademarks protection, contracts, intellectual property will all be growth areas. Science and engineering students can also take up the patent law exam. The law graduate will have the option of either joining a company as legal manager or open one's own legal practice dealing with any of these aspects. At present, however, there are no separate courses dealing with patent law. A basic law degree is what one can get, and later specialise in patent law. A non-lawyer can also become a patent attorney after clearing the patent attorney exam conducted by the patent office.

Business and Contract Law: Legal Manager, Legal Officer.

Qualifications: LLB or LL.M, from National Law School, Bangalore, Delhi School of Law, Universities.

Starting salary: Rs 7,000 to Rs 10,000 per month, increasing to Rs 50,000 for senior positions.

Patent and IPR: Legal Officer, Legal Manager.

Finance

For many years in the doldrums, careers in finance may be looking up now, with economic recovery in sight. Companies have to conform to standards and follow international accountancy norms, which has created opportunities for Chartered Accountants. There may be more public issues now that the markets have perked up, which will result in demand for banks, merchant banks and other providing financial services. The opening up of the banking sector has seen a revolution of sorts and many opportunities have been created.

There are related jobs in valuation, derivatives, foreign exchange and debt market. After gaining experience in a bank or financial services company, one can move to foreign banks or services companies. Salaries in the sector are traditionally high, but these are also high risk jobs and much depends on the economic situation. Accountants, however, are safe since they are always required to keep the records of the company in order and for tax planning.

Apart from working in a financial services company, a finance expert can open up his own company to provide financial services, after gaining some years of experience.

Qualifications: MBA (Finance), Chartered Accountant, Cost Accountant, Company Secretary, Chartered Financial Analyst.

Starting salary: Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000 per month, going up to over Rs 1 lakh per month for middle and senior levels.

Journalism and Advertising

New careers that are opening up also exist in journalism, advertising and marketing. First, journalism moved up from newspapers to television, and now they are upgrading to the Internet. As TV channels multiply, people trained in the visual medium will be greatly in demand. The profession requires meeting deadlines and is thus a demanding one. Coming on TV is just one aspect of the job. TV journalists have to wait for VIPs for hours and get a quote or two from them as they go about their work. This requires patience and grit and may even be tedious work. It may also require covering routine functions and speeches, which could be very boring after some time. Supply is in excess of demand. Some studios and TV software companies offer on-the-job training, but a course from a reputed institute may make the entry easy.

A new area in journalism is Web editing. There is a need for people who can create and maintain content on websites: all major newspapers and magazines today have websites of their own. Being a journalist is not enough—an aspirant must also have an idea about layouts and the integration of text and graphics.

The following are some areas in which careers could be made in journalism:

Print media: Newspapers and magazines. Join as reporters and move on to become editors.

Qualifications: Degree in journalism, MA. For Web editing, knowledge of web-pages design.

Starting salary: Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 a month, going up to Rs 25,000 or even more.

Advertising is another career that attracts young people because of the glamour. Again, there is a lot of hard work involved. Opportunities exist at all levels, as also for opening up a business that provides services to advertisers. Modelling, copywriting, designing and photography are related jobs. An offshoot is public relations, since companies require favourable publicity.

Marketing

Marketing is another area that requires a lot of people. First, representatives are needed to demonstrate and sell products. Either a person can join a company as an employee or work from the home by becoming "distributor". Many foreign direct sales companies are setting up offices in the country which allow the flexibility of working hours. Distributors reportedly earn sizeable amounts and win trips abroad upon meeting sales targets. However, it may be remembered that it is not everyone's cup of tea—enter direct marketing only if you have the aptitude. Quite often distributors end up using the products themselves as they are unable to sell them.

Second, tele-sales is another concept that is increasingly being used by companies. In this, one has to conduct sales through the telephone; very often it can be done by making phone calls from home itself. Third, one can participate in product launches or events by taking up part-time jobs. Students and housewives can utilise their spare time by doing marketing jobs, and it is reported that sizeable incomes can be earned by becoming part of a direct selling team.

The ideal way is to take up a direct selling job in vacations. This helps build confidence and one gets to know whether one has the aptitude or not. Later on, one can do a formal training in sales or marketing if one finds that a career in it can be made.

Qualifications: No formal qualifications are required.

Jargon Busting—Part-II

Anonymous FTP: A way to use FTP program to log on to another computer to copy files when you do not have an account on the host computer. When you log on, type "anonymous" as the username and your email address as the password. This gives you access to publicly available files on the host computer.

Applet: A small computer program, written in popular language called Java, which can be embedded in a web page.

Baud: Baud is a measure of modem speed, and is equal to one signal per second. Therefore 1000 baud equals 1000 bits of data transferred per second. However, at higher speeds, this might not hold true. For example, a 14400 baud modem is not a 14400 bps modem.

Bits per second (bps): The measure of a modem's speed. A 28.8 kbps modem can move 28,800 bits per second.

Bounce: What your E-mail does when it cannot get to its recipient—it bounces back to you.

Cache: The disk cache is the space on your hard drive where pages are stored as you view them. When you click on a link, a page is downloaded from the Internet to your Cache folder. If you view the page again, the page is read from the Cache folder.

Client/Server: Computer technology that separates computers and their users into two categories: clients and servers. When you want information from a computer on the Internet, you are a client. The computer that delivers the information is the server.

Compression: A method of encoding data signals that allows transmission (or storage) of more information than the media would otherwise be able to support.

Fibre-optic cable: A technology that uses light beams to carry data. The capacity is many times that of traditional data links such as coaxial cable and microwave.

Handshake: Two modems (such as your and your ISP's) trying to connect.

Information Superhighway: Refers to the plan to deregulate communication services, allowing for the integration of all aspects of Internet, CATV, telephone, business, entertain-

ment, information providers, education, etc.

Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN): A set of standards for high-speed digital transmission of simultaneous voice, data and video information over fewer channels than would otherwise be needed, through the use of phone lines. ISDN can provide speeds of 64 kbps or higher over a regular phone line.

Mirror: An FTP server that provides copies of the same files as another server. Some FTP servers are so popular that other servers have been set up to mirror them and spread the FTP load to more than one site.

Offline browsing: A browser feature that lets you browse the web without being connected to the Internet. When you enable offline browsing, you can view the sites stored in your cache, without connecting to the Internet.

POP3: Post-Office Protocol (version 3). Used for downloading mail from your server to your computer.

QuickTime: A method developed by Apple Computer for storing and playing back movie and audio files in digital format.

Search Engine: A program used by a search services on the WWW. When you send a request to a search engine, your request is checked against the index that the engine has already compiled.

Shareware: Software that is freely available on the net. If you like and use the software, you should send in the fee requested by the author, whose name and address will be found in a file distributed with the software.

TCP/IP: Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol. The particular system for transferring information over a computer network—that is at the heart of the Internet.

Terrestrial Link: an Earth based, point-to-point data link (as opposed to VSAT, which is via satellite).

URL: Uniform Resource Locator. An address on the World Wide Web. e.g.: <http://www.apple.com>

VSNL: Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited. The Indian Government venture that controls all international access to Internet to/from India.

This Month's URL List

Career:
<http://www.careertalk.com>
Contains archives of articles on career planning and preparation.

News/Entertainment:
<http://www.gurdasmaan.com>
The biggest "Meen" of them all.

Corporate:
<http://www.manitudyog.com>
Web Site of the Indian car-manufacturing giant

Indian:
<http://www.eci.gov.in>
The definitive guide to Indian Elections 1999. Surprisingly well stocked with information.

Off the Beaten Track:
<http://www.thehungersite.com>
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Drain Dross From Self

A man's personal problem is how to construct his own life according to his own purpose without the wreckage of other lives. This requires, as Robert Louis Stevenson said, both "fortitude and delicacy".

It is easy to be strong and rough. It is easy to be weak and gentle. But it requires a high degree of self-control to possess both strength and gentleness as did Mahatma Gandhi.

Why did Gandhi become our national hero? Because he had courage without brutality. In his generation, such a thing was rare. He always held his lower nature in control. He fought against any odds. But he never harmed a woman or an unarmed man. There was no cruelty in him. Even in a life of violence and danger, he kept his passions in control.

There are two kinds of feelings—the social and the anti-social. There is the feeling of mother-love at the top and there is the bloodlust of the murderer at the bottom. By self-mastery we mean the development of the higher and nobler feelings and the subjugation of the baser feelings. Every man has brute qualities in him that he must do his best to elimi-

nate.

We know that under the thin crust of the earth there is the great central fire. Every now and then the fire breaks the crust and there are earthquakes and disasters. So, in every man, there is a central fire of passions and appetites that must be kept in control by the crust of self-control and mental development.

We might say that in the back of every brain there are passions and appetites and emotions that we have inherited from past ages. When the front of the brain breaks loose then a man becomes a weakling or a criminal or a lunatic.

Raw Passions

WHEN a man attacks and ravishes and kills a young girl, what was the cause of it? A gorilla in the back of his brain broke loose. The man ceased to be human.

In the back of every brain there is a "zoo". There are wild animals of passion and violence. And they must be kept in their cages. Every sane, well-balanced man is one who has put the front of his brain in control. His brain is both old and new, and he rules his life by the new part, not

by the old. He uses his reason. He thinks. He keeps his "zoo" in order.

To be ruled by one's baser self is a slavery. As Spinoza once wrote: "The powerlessness of a man to govern and restrain his passions I call servitude. A man who is controlled by his baser feelings is not his own master, but is mastered by circumstances, under whose power he is often compelled, though he sees the better, to follow the worse."

The feelings that make a man fail, either in business or political life are fear, self-pity, rage, revenge, jealousy, hate and the whole range of brutal instincts. Thousands of able men are pulled down by these feelings.

No one knows how many careers are wiped out by nothing more than bad temper. Irritability is as hurtful to a firm as sand is to an engine.

One large firm in England was closed down and an appropriate epitaph for it: "Here lies Blank and Blank Ltd, smashed by bad temper." The head of it was a scolder. He flew into at least a score of rages every week. Naturally, things went wrong, because everyone in the firm was in fear. In the end, the firm faded out. It was "scolded to death".

All the feelings that create ill-will are destructive in life. Every feeling that alienates others is costly. Many a man, every competent and intelligent, fails because of his manner. He repels people. He creates hostility and opposition.

Snooty

SOME men make a small success and it spoils them. They do not climb any higher. Success, like whisky, is likely to go to a man's head. He develops a latent arrogance and cuts himself off from the friendship and co-operation of other men.

Many a girl in an office, when she is promoted to a responsible job, tips her nose up to her fellow-workers and creates an ill-will that sooner or later pulls her down.

All these failures happen because of a lack of self-mastery. The man who has not mastered himself is not fit for power. Napoleon found this out when he picked up his easy-going relatives and made kings and princes of them. Eventually, it was their folly and disloyalty that tumbled him down.

The most destructive of all feelings is fear. It holds a man back and prevents him from developing the stronger side of his nature. When a man's fears control him, he lives a life of apprehension. He is afraid of what may happen. He is afraid of things that do not happen at all. His imagination torments him.

Every criminal suffers from apprehension. It is the one penalty that he can never escape. But it ought to be banished from the mind of every honest man.

A man must make an effort and face his fears. He must accept the normal risks of life, just as he must accept the weather. No man can be wrapped in cotton-wool and stored safely in a drawer. There are always dangers.

A man must accept life as it is and make the best of it. Certainly, he must not whine before he is hurt. If he has mastered himself, even when he is badly hurt he will not whine. A fear is like a disease-germ. One weak, frightened man may infect many others.

Once Harry Hopf went to see a client who was a pessimist.

This client, a manufacturer, was putting the spirit of defeat and discouragement into his whole organization. All his conversation was about trouble. Harry Hopf said to him: "Have you the ability to keep a secret?" The man replied: "Yes, I think I can."

"Well", said Hopf, leaning over and speaking confidentially, "won't you, please, during this year, keep it a secret that you think your business is going to the dogs?"

He had a sense of humour. He laughed and said: "You are right. From now on, I won't let a man in my organization even suspect that I think business is bad."

Self-mastery does not mean the abolition of sentiment in a man's nature. It does not mean that we should become like Superman—ruthless and dominating. Sentiment is as necessary in a complete man as intellect. It is not weakness. It is power as much as thought is.

Sparklers

WAS it not Dickens, the novelist of sentiment, who ripened the natures of the English people? Was it not Burns, the poet who softened the sentiments of people?

Did not Florence Nightingale have power enough to make even the war office more humane and kindly? Was it not the inspiration of her life that helped to abolish the slums of London?

Some men regard self-mastery as a means of oppressing or dominating others. They push and thrust their way

through the world. They are inconsiderate and dictatorial. Often, they do succeed in getting what they want—power or money.

There is a mistaken impression as to the true meaning of self-mastery and personality. Many men think that it is the power to impress or dominate other people. They think that it means the mastery over other people.

Self-effacing

BRUCE Douglas was well-known in the tea business. He was one of the gentlest of men—almost self-effacing. He had an air of deference to small men as well as to big men. He slipped into a room quietly, but in a short time he was directing the conversation.

He influenced men by his intelligence, his reasonableness and his courtesy. He was the exact opposite of a super-salesman, but he knew how to sell goods and keep customers. Anyone who met him once wished to meet him again.

How to be simple, likeable and deferential, and at the same time be persuasive and effective—that is the problem. People must be won over, not coerced and mastered. Certainly, they must not be made to feel small. Whether we are managing employees or selling goods, it is best to be considerate.

The military manner is absurd in social life. It destroys kindness and prevents friendship. The stronger a man is, the more careful he should be not to make other people afraid of him. In the real personality and self-confidence, there is no trace of arrogance.

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World (hic) cups!

THE World Cup '99 is over, ending in a thrilling anticlimax. Australians, unfancied as champions, ran away with the Cup, leaving South Africa and Pakistan, the major contenders, dazed and disappointed. Players from various participating nations have been honoured, praised or pelted with rotten eggs.

I have attempted a post-mortem of the tournament and come to some conclusions. I have selected the following for world hiccups—minor replicas of the Cup.

Captain. Our own Azza Mian since replaced by Sachin. Not for his performance on the field but for his famous statements to the media: "We played well but we did not win." (Only teams that play badly win matches!) "We are good chasers." Perhaps, he had

film starlets in mind!

Wasim Akram came a close second with the statement which made the Pakistani re-write a famous quote to. "Practice" makes a man imperfect.

Bowler. Ajit Agarkar of Mumbai from where another Ajit called Wadekar hails. He wins the Cup for being the prize villain of the piece. Like the villain in Hindi films, he got the maximum beating (with bat) and no-balled himself into the wide area of criticism. A close contender was the "Rawalpindi Express" but he "romanced" himself out of the reckoning.

Batsman. A. Khurasia (a member of the Indian squad) for not featuring in any match, confining to the hotel room, not getting even nets. The Chairman of the "bunch of

jokers" has not opened his oracled mouth on him. Perhaps, he is busy skirting the issue!

Ijaz of Pakistan nearly won the Cup for being spotted at a famous night club at 3.45 a.m. before the final. But I excluded him from the list of contenders because he was practising leg glances!

Wicket-Keeper. Moin Khan wins the Cup gloves down for his gibbering from behind the stumps. "Bowling, Saqi", "Come on". "Shabash". "Kick them".

Soon we will have to have another match referee to restrain this deafening decible.

Catcher. H. Gibbs of South Africa who dropped steely Steve Waugh of Australia at 50 plus and had to digest: "You have just dropped the World Cup, son."

How long the son-

relationship will last remains to be seen, especially when Hansi Cronje is his own man, minus his ears!

Runner between the wickets. Give him a good hand. It is no other than 30-run outs fame Inzi of Pakistan.

The Cup goes to Inzamam for being the best runner between the wickets. He looks like (while running between the wickets) an old locomotive coming to a halt at a ramshackle railway station. He runs so fast that it is the batsman at the other end who pants and puffs for breath!

Coach. I tried every possible means to get at the best one but failed. I persisted with my efforts till someone knowledgeable whispered into my ears: Stop this futile chase. He is lost in the crowd of fat and fanatic bookies.

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and materialism in society. The media's obsession with glamour and elite lifestyles fuels the darker aspects of society, rather than build morals and values



Snigdhasmita Srivastava, Sonabhadra (UP). She is a student of class 9 and wants to be a doctor. Her hobbies are reading and travelling.

Society has become prone to various crimes, with media affecting our minds. It has crippled our deciding capacity. It provides such dreamy ideas about various careers that many of us want to do exotic things, thereby becoming frustrated in the end. Newspapers are filled with dummies. How do they assume that we are interested in reading about crawly politicians or the gossip they print day in and day out?

The media is no longer the watchdog of society. It has forgotten its role and has become a frivolous time-pass these days



Rajveer Sangha, Jalandhar. He studies in class 10 and wants to be a nuclear scientist. His hobbies are stamp collecting and bird watching.

The media is today merely a source of entertainment. On television, much nonsense is shown. Even on national festivals, people sit glued to television watching films. There is, thus, a degradation of character and level of understanding of the people. Young boys and girls give greater importance to things like love and beauty rather than studies. Indian society has been embracing all the rubbish of the West in the name of modernisation. But the society also has to be blamed, since many people like the nonsense entertainment and

sit for hours watching it. The media only provides what is demanded. To improve the media, we have to reform ourselves first



Shavinder Bhatia, Ambala. She is doing B.Sc and wants to be an IAS officer. Her hobbies are reading and coin collecting.

Media is a means through which the world is connected. Its impact is great and can be seen from the fact that people want to imitate people on television and often dress like them. However, the media is obsessed with politics and glamour while everyday problems are ignored. The media seems to have forgotten its responsibility towards society.



Amit Kumar, Ranchi. He works as a fashion co-ordinator in an Export House.

Unwittingly, the role of the media has been reduced to entertainment. Today, what we get is an unsavoury mix of sex and violence. The media has become a means of teaching questionable habits and attitudes of people. However, despite the negative impact, there are good things as well. We are exposed to developments in science and technology. Our society may be rid of superstitions and social evils like female infanticide and dowry by exposure of Western lifestyles.



Santosh Kumar Singh, Muzaffarpur (Bihar). He is doing B.Sc and aims to do MBA.

A responsible media can be a panacea for many social diseases, but we cannot say that it is shouldering its responsibility. All it wants to do is to attract advertisers and is not concerned with the impact on society. Journalists these days are not truth seekers but are happy to print handouts given to them. It is up to the younger crop of professionals to rectify the trend and bring back the independence that was once the hallmark of journalism.



Garima Malik, Faridabad. She is a student of B.A. and wants to become an IAS officer. Her hobbies are reading and watching films.

The power of the media as the single biggest shaper of world opinion is so immense that no ruler can ignore it. It can topple governments. It has brought nations of the world socially, economically and culturally closer to one another. It is a unifying force. True, it may have some negative aspects but, on the whole, it is quite useful. In the recent Kargil episode, it helped influence world opinion and showed Pakistan's insidious plans to the world. Like everything, it has two aspects and we have to take the good with the bad.



Y. Bhaskar Rao, village Salekasa (Maharashtra). He has done his B.Sc and is preparing for competitive exams.

In my school days I thought that an engineer meant being a train driver. It was only through the media that I learnt what being an engineer actually meant.

A majority of the population in our country lives in villages. Politically oriented papers published from cities are of no use to

us. These papers have failed to bring about a scientific attitude. Instead, they give importance to the materialistic world. Living in a village, I see the utterly useless information that is thrust on us by newspapers who do not tire of reporting every worthless statement that leaders in Delhi have to make. They have forgotten that their role is also towards the 70% people who live in villages.



G. Neela Vauhini, Vishakhapatnam. She is doing a diploma in Human Resource Management.

Media now means fun and entertainment, turning people away from productive tasks. Few people realise that what we see on television is far from reality. Physical appearance has become of prime concern and there is no emphasis on intellectual growth. The press fills columns with unwanted stuff. Many students, like my brother, are now addicted to fashion and TV. The harmful effects of the media can be seen if we see how most young people behave.

Thank you Readers for your overwhelming response. Some more stories will be published in the next issue.

The winner of First Prize gets a gift cheque of Rs 2000/-, second prize a gift cheque of Rs 1500/- and Third prize a gift cheque of Rs 1000/-.

There are also 15 consolation prizes of Rs 100 each. While first ten consolation prizes are announced in this issue, the names of balance five consolation prize winners will be announced in the November 1999 issue.

How Well have You Read CM?

The following questions are based on the September 99 issue of *The Competition Master*. They will help you revise current affairs. If you do not know certain answers, do make an effort to locate them in our last issue.

1. Name the film that has won the *Swarna Kamal* for the best feature film in the National Film Awards, 1999:

- a) Godmother b) Zakhm
c) Samar d) Hu tu tu

2. What was the earlier name of Taiwan?

- a) Taiwan b) Taijing
c) Taipei d) Formosa

3. Which of the following is the new Prime Minister of Russia?

- a) Vladmir Putin
b) Sergei Stepashin
c) Anatoly Chubias
d) Boris Yeltsin

4. Name the company which was the top advertiser on television for the year 1998:

- a) Colgate Palmolive b) Nestle
c) Pepsi
d) Hindustan Lever

5. What is the capital of Taiwan?

- a) Taiwan b) Beijing
c) Taipei d) Taijing

6. Which is the least populated State in India?

- a) Sikkim
b) Meghalaya
c) Goa
d) Arunachal Pradesh

7. Eileen Collins was in the news recently because:

- a) she became the first woman PM of New Zealand
b) she became the first woman to command a US space mission
c) she is a senior US official who visited India recently
d) she has supported India on Kargil at the UN.

8. Dr S. Chandrashekhar, after whom the Chandra X-ray Observatory has been named, won the Nobel Prize in which of the following years?

- a) 1981 b) 1983
c) 1987 d) 1991

9. The Chandra X-ray Observatory was launched from which of the following space shuttles?

- a) Discovery b) Challenger
c) NASA d) Colombia

10. Which of the following is NOT a winner of the Padma Shri, 1999?

- a) Javed Akhtar b) Sachin Tendulkar
c) Girish Karnad d) Ruskin Bond

11. Name the place where a massive train accident occurred, killing more than 400 people?

- a) Gaisal b) Guwahati
c) Jalpaiguri d) Gwalior

12. What is Cartosat-1?

- a) an earth imaging satellite
b) a communications satellite
c) satellite to connect stock exchanges in the country
d) satellite for making maps

13. The spacecraft which will carry names of people to Mars is called:

- a) Pathfinder 2001
b) Surveyor 2001 Lander
c) Mars Lander 2001
d) Proteus 2001

14. Which country is associated with the making of Sawalkote Hydro Project in J&K?

- a) Canada b) Norway
c) USA d) UK

15. The Army Institute of Law is located at:

- a) Pune b) Patna
c) Patiala d) Bhagalpur

16. What is India's literacy rate?

- a) 52% b) 57% c) 59% d) 62%

17. Which of the following companies is not among the 800 international companies rated by Forbes magazine?

- a) SBI b) IOL

- c) ONGC d) SAIL

18. According to Goldman Sachs Investment Research, how many net users will there be in Asia in 2003?

- a) 54 million b) 75 million
c) 56 billion d) 64 million

19. Which of the following countries witnessed student demonstrations for democracy in July 1999?

- a) Indonesia b) Iraq
c) Iran d) Malaysia

20. On which of the following dates did man first set foot on the moon?

- a) July 20, 1969 b) June 23, 1969
c) May 17, 1968 d) April 20, 1969

21. The Anti-defection Bill was brought into being by which amendment to the Constitution?

- a) 51st b) 52nd c) 58th d) 60th

22. The Sarkaria Commission was set up for reviewing the relations between:

- a) The PM and the President
b) Legislature and Executive
c) Executive and Judiciary
d) Centre and States

23. Name the committee appointed by the government to review the events that led to Pakistani incursion in Kargil:

- a) Wadhwa b) Subramaniam
c) Verma d) Venkatchaliah

24. Name the quasi-religious sect which has been banned by the Chinese government saying that it threatened social chaos?

- a) Gin Seng b) Teng Hui
c) Falun Gong d) Chee Yong

(Answers will appear in our November Issue.)

(Answers to September 1999 Quiz)

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. c | 2. b | 3. a | 4. d |
| 5. b | 6. a | 7. d | 8. c |
| 9. d | 10. c | 11. b | 12. a |
| 13. b | 14. d | 15. c | 16. b |
| 17. d | 18. a | 19. d | 20. c |
| 21. b | 22. a | 23. d | 24. c |
| 25. c | | | |

English Language

USAGE

Spotting Errors (1 to 10)

Read the following sentences carefully and find out the error in any one part—(a), (b), (c) and (d) of each sentence. In case you do not come across any error, your answer will be (e)

1. The number(a) of ugly and untoward incidents(b) in the town(c) have risen in recent past (d) No error (e)

2. The old man(a) did ran the race(b) as he promised, though(c) he was placed last.(d) No error.(e)

3. In spite of everything(a) he has done to me(b) over the years(c) I cannot help liking him.(d) No error.(e)

4. She declared she would remain(a) a spinster than marrying(b) the greedy young man(c) who demanded a fat dowry.(d) No error (e)

5. He is so repulsive(a) that everyone avoids him like plague(b) and there is no one here(c) but likes him (d) No error.(e)

6. I suggested him a way out(a) but he was too proud(b) to use someone else's(c) suggestion or idea.(d) No error.(e)

7. The ratio of judges to the overall(a) population of India is the lowest(b) which is also one of the reasons(c) that a large number of cases was pending (d) No error.(e)

8. The news that the enemy soldiers(a) have blocked all the exits(b) have spread shock waves(c) throughout the community.(d) No error (e)

9. Gandhiji was willing(a) to sacrifice his life(b) for Hindu-Muslim unity(c) but not give up his principles.(d) No error (e)

10. These innovative steps have been taken(a) by a bold, pragmatic Finance Minister(b) with a view to improve(c) the financial climate in the country.(d) No error.(e)

Sentence Improvement (11 to 15)

Look at the underlined part of each sentence. Below the sentence are given three

possible choices to improve the underlined part. If one of them, namely (a), (b) and (c) is better than the underlined part, that will be your answer. If none of the choices improves the sentence, your answer will be (d).

11. The material thus compiled and documented will have become only a vestige of a living tradition.

- (a) would have become
- (b) should have become
- (c) could have become
- (d) No improvement required

12. When an individual genius will integrate the characters, situations and images of oral literatures, they will live on for ever.

- (a) integrates
- (b) integrated
- (c) can integrate
- (d) No improvement required

13. It is now almost five years since the social court began dispensing justice.

- (a) began to dispense with justice
- (b) began dispensing for justice
- (c) began dispensing off justice
- (d) No improvement required

14. The son begged of him to sit back and devote himself to prayers and worship of the Lord

- (a) begged to him
- (b) begged him
- (c) begged before him
- (d) No improvement required

15. I cannot forbid you seeing that man again.

- (a) forbid you to seeing
- (b) forbid to your seeing
- (c) forbid your seeing
- (d) No improvement required

Synonyms (16 to 20)

In the following sentences a word in each sentence is underlined. For the underlined word, four choices are given. Choose the word nearest in meaning to the underlined word and that will be your answer.

16. People think she is a freak just

because she is religious.

- (a) abnormal
- (b) mad
- (c) lunatic
- (d) kind

17. Frantic efforts were made to save the drowning child.

- (a) sincere
- (b) careful
- (c) desperate
- (d) hopeless

18. The dog jumped at the intruder with frenzied barks

- (a) violent
- (b) wildly agitated
- (c) highly visible
- (d) fast and furious

19. She is fanatical about keeping fit

- (a) over-enthusiastic
- (b) over-smart
- (c) over-confident
- (d) over-worried

20. These photographs have come out all fuzzy.

- (a) impressive
- (b) fine
- (c) wonderful
- (d) indistinct

Antonyms (21 to 25)

In the following sentences for each underlined word, four choices are given, opposite in meaning to the underlined word. Select the most appropriate word opposite in meaning and that will be your answer.

21. The covert activities of a sky are seldom noticed.

- (a) sincere
- (b) friendly
- (c) smooth
- (d) transparent

22. She finally confessed to having stolen the money.

- (a) withdrew
- (b) denied
- (c) refused
- (d) cheated

23. House prices have escalated steadily.

- (a) regulated
- (b) stabilised
- (c) fallen
- (d) controlled

24. He has been leading a vagrant life for quite some years now.

- (a) adventurous
- (b) ambitious
- (c) satisfactory
- (d) settled

25. Such tendentious statements are likely to provoke strong opposition

- (a) impartial
- (b) ideal
- (c) impractical
- (d) silly

COMPREHENSION (26 to 35)

Read the following passage and answer the questions given below the passage. For each question, four possible answers are given. You are required to choose the best answer and that will be your correct choice

Passage I

The points raised by India on scientific ethics in traditional and local knowledge systems have been included in the draft declaration on science and the use of scientific knowledge, likely to be adopted by the first World Conference on Science being held in Budapest. The draft declaration calls for practising and applying the "sciences in line with appropriate ethical requirements on the basis of an enhanced public debate." The pursuit of science and use of scientific knowledge should respect and maintain life in all its diversity, as well as the life support systems of the world.

26. Which one of the following statements is wrong?

- (a) the points raised by an Indian on scientific knowledge were accepted by Science Conference.
- (b) The points raised by an Indian on scientific ethics in traditional and local knowledge systems were accepted.
- (c) The points by India on scientific ethics were included in declaration on science.
- (d) The World Conference on

Science was held in Budapest.

27. What does draft declaration call for?

- (a) it calls for an enhanced public debate.
- (b) it calls for practice and application of science with proper ethical requirements.
- (c) it calls for practising and applying the sciences for human welfare
- (d) none of these

28. What should the pursuit of science aim at?

- (a) it should maintain equal respect for scientific knowledge and human welfare
- (b) it should encourage scientific temper.
- (c) it should aim at maintenance of selective life systems in the world
- (d) it should respect and maintain life in all its diversity.

29. What is the most suitable title for the passage?

- (a) science and ethics
- (b) use of science
- (c) pursuit of science
- (d) science and life support systems

30. What is the need of the hour?

- (a) ethical needs based on more and more public discussion
- (b) some consideration or place of ethics in scientific research and use
- (c) pursuit and use of scientific knowledge in sustaining diversity of life
- (d) pursuit and exploitation of scientific knowledge for more comforts

Passage II

In social life there is an almost worldwide trend towards weakening of community and family ties. The community life weakens under the onslaught of individualistic self-centred leanings so that the focus of human relationships becomes narrower, confined largely to the nuclear family. But even within this small unit there is an increasing crisis—in the relationship of husband and wife, in the relationship of

parents and children and so on. In the school also there is a disorientation of student-teacher relationship. Teenagers and youths are increasingly seen to be beyond control and a world unto themselves. Children are almost universally exposed to excessive sex and violence at an early age.

31. What is the greatest threat to social life?

- (a) decaying of social values
- (b) undue emphasis on selfish trends.
- (c) phenomenal rise of individualistic tendencies.
- (d) weakening of social and family bonds.

32. What does the term 'nuclear family' stand for?

- (a) a family comprising father, mother and children.
- (b) a family where both husband and wife are working.
- (c) a family that is wedded to past traditions.
- (d) a family accustomed to urban life, its stresses and strains.

33. What does the nuclear family suffer from?

- (a) ambitions and expectations
- (b) increasing crisis in family ties
- (c) neglect of elderly persons
- (d) defiant attitude of children

34. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) nuclear family, though small in size, is large-hearted.
- (b) the community life weakens under the stress of fast urbanisation
- (c) teenagers and youths are learning to adjust themselves with the new realities
- (d) in schools there is an atmosphere of disorientation of teacher-student relationship.

35. What is true about children?

- (a) their neglect by working parents.
- (b) their excessive exposure to sex and violence.
- (c) their exposure to new channels of knowledge.
- (d) their early exposure to family crisis.

ORDERING OF PARTS IN A SENTENCE (36 to 40)

In the following sentences some parts have been jumbled up. You are required to rearrange these parts which are labelled P, Q, R and S to produce the correct/natural sentence.

36. In our country

(P) and no sooner is a crisis over (Q) some new problem (R) than we move on to some new excitement (S) it seems to be particularly so.

(a) S R P Q

(b) S Q P R

(c) S P R Q

(d) S P Q R

37. Today we have calmed down

(P) the volcano of Kargil (Q) as the lava is boiling (R) can erupt somewhere else (S) but tomorrow the volcano.

(a) P R Q S

(b) P S Q R

(c) P S R Q

(d) S P R Q

38. India goes

(P) the example to follow (Q) beyond caste, religion and region (R) sacrifice for the greater good is (S) and that making a personal.

(a) Q S R P

(b) Q S P R

(c) Q P R S

(d) P Q S R

39. We are ready to repatriate

(P) here in case foreign investors (Q) flee the country and India is left (R) every penny we earn (S) with no forex reserves.

(a) Q P S R

(b) R Q P S

(c) R P S Q

(d) R P Q S

40. It is a question

(P) he has heard several times (Q) have heard several times (R) and it is a story the children (S) but it does not either of them.

(a) P R S Q

(b) P R Q S

(c) P S Q R

(d) S Q P R

SELECTING WORDS (41 to 50)

In the following passage at certain points for each blank space, a choice of three words is given. Choose the best word out of the three

and that will be your answer:

This scholarly

41. (a) expression

(b) debate

(c) discussion

on the two basic values—Satyam and Dharma—truth and righteousness—is

42. (a) explained

(b) illustrated

(c) shown

by various incidents in the Ramayana

43. (a) connecting

(b) joining

(c) binding

them to the contemporary society and

44. (a) polity

(b) scenario.

(c) atmosphere

These illustrative

45. (a) chapters

(b) books

(c) essays

start with Rama as a

46. (a) prince

(b) ruler

(c) warrior

and conclude with Rama as a Great Sage—Maharishi. While discussing Rama Rajya the

47. (a) speaker

(b) writer

(c) author

makes reference to Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda, Plato and

48. (a) ends

(b) finishes

(c) concludes

that "Sri Rama had dedicated himself to ruling the country as an

49. (a) absentee

(b) ideal

(c) august

ruler, and every citizen should take him as an ideal person to

50. (a) prepare

(b) equip

(c) enable

himself to serve the country, when occasion arises."

ANSWERS

1. (d) 'has risen in recent past'.

2. (b) 'did run the race'.

3. (c) No error.

4. (b) 'a spinster than marry'.

5. (d) 'who likes him'.

6. (a) 'I suggested to him a way out'.

7. (d) '...cases were pending'.

8. (c) 'has spread shock waves'.

9. (c) No error.

10. (c) 'with a view to improving'.

11. (d) 12. (a) 13. (d) 14. (b)

15. (c) 16. (a) 17. (c) 18. (b)

19. (a) 20. (d) 21. (d) 22. (b)

23. (c) 24. (d) 25. (a) 26. (a)

27. (b) 28. (d) 29. (a) 30. (c)

31. (d) 32. (a) 33. (b) 34. (d)

35. (b) 36. (c) 37. (c) 38. (a)

39. (d) 40. (b) 41. (c) 42. (b)

43. (a) 44. (a) 45. (a) 46. (b)

47. (c) 48. (c) 49. (b) 50. (b)

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General Awareness

The questions given below were set in the Staff Selection Commission Combined (Preliminary) Examination held on the 4th July, 1999.

We are grateful to Shri H.P. Saini of Meerut Cantt for sending the question paper.

1. Which is the long-range missile that was tested by Pakistan in the wake of India testing Agni II?

- (a) Ghauri II (b) Shaheen I
(c) Hatf I (d) Hatf II

2. The Indian Naval Ship being converted into a maritime museum is:

- (a) Sagar Samrat (b) Kanishka
(c) Samrat Ashoka (d) Vikrant

3. Prof Amartya Sen is these days in the news because:

- (a) he is internationally known as a leading social economist
(b) he has been awarded 'Bharat Ratna'
(c) he is a recipient of the Nobel Prize
(d) All of the above

4. The first country to legalize medically assisted suicide is:

- (a) Australia (b) United States
(c) Netherlands (d) Switzerland

5. The Baisakhi Festival of the year 1999 is of great historical significance to Punjab because:

- (a) it commemorates the tercentenary of the foundation of Khalsa Panth
(b) it being the last such festival of the twentieth century
(c) of participation by a large number of Punjabis who are non-resident Indians
(d) None of the above

6. Exobiology deals with the study of:

- (a) external characters of living organisms
(b) life on the surface of the earth
(c) life in the outer layers of atmosphere
(d) life in other planets and space

7. The Social System of the Harappans was:

- (a) Fairly egalitarian (b) Slave-Labour based
(c) Colour (Varna) based (d) Caste based

8. Which of the following Vedas provides information about the civilisation of the Early Vedic Age?

- (a) Rig-veda (b) Yajur-veda
(c) Atharva-veda (d) Sama-veda

9. The university which became famous in the post-Gupta Era was:

- (a) Kanchi (b) Taxila
(c) Nalanda (d) Vallabhi

10. Banabhatta was the court poet of which emperor?

- (a) Vikramaditya (b) Kumaragupta
(c) Harshavardhana (d) Kanishka

11. The first Indian ruler, who established the supremacy of Indian Navy in the Arabian Sea, was:

- (a) Rajaraja I (b) Rajendra I
(c) Rajadhiraja I (d) Kulottunga I

12. The Mughal painting reached its zenith during the reign of:

- (a) Akbar (b) Jahangir
(c) Shahjahan (d) Aurangzeb

13. Permanent Revenue Settlement of Bengal was introduced by:

- (a) Clive (b) Hastings
(c) Wellesley (d) Cornwallis

14. The father of extremist movement in India is:

- (a) Motilal Nehru (b) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
(c) Vallabhbhai Parel (d) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

15. The World Bank normally gives:

- (a) short-term loans (b) medium-term loans
(c) long-term loans
(d) medium- and long-term loans

16. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) came into existence with:

- (a) Berlin Conference (b) London Conference
(c) Bretton Woods Conference (d) Rome Conference

17. 'Multiplier' process in economic theory is conventionally taken to mean:

- (a) the manner in which prices increase
(b) the manner in which banks create credit
(c) income of an economy grows on account of an initial investment
(d) the manner in which government expenditure increases

18. Structural adjustment loans given by the World Bank are meant for:

- (a) increasing employment in agriculture
(b) increasing export-earning capacity of the borrower country
(c) reducing inequalities of income distribution
(d) encouraging capital-intensive industries

19. A financial instrument is called a 'primary security' if it represents the liability of:

- (a) some ultimate borrower
(b) the Government of India
(c) a primary cooperative bank
(d) a commercial bank

20. Service cooperatives are:

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

- (a) Single purpose societies (b) credit societies
(c) marketing societies
(d) multi-purpose societies
21. Output at break-even point is that output at which the producer is able to:
(a) recover only operating costs
(b) recover total costs
(c) wipe out earlier losses
(d) earn a normal profit
22. India's share in world trade since 1950:
(a) has been rising (b) has been constant
(c) has been declining
(d) has shown a mixed trend
23. Animals do not have enzyme systems which enable them to make use of the energy from:
(a) fat (b) water (c) protein (d) carbohydrate
24. A clone is a colony of:
(a) cells having different shapes
(b) cells having similar shape
(c) cells having similar genetic constitution
(d) cells having different genetic constitutions
25. The pollen grains of flowers pollinated by insects are:
(a) smooth and dry (b) rough and sticky
(c) rough and dry (d) large and showy
26. Which one of the following substances is used for preservation of food grains?
(a) Sodium benzoate (b) Vinegar
(c) Sodium chloride (d) Potassium permanganate
27. The disease caused by Asbestos is:
(a) Emphysema (b) Paralysis
(c) Diarrhoea (d) dysentery
28. In the eye, colour vision is effected by the presence of:
(a) Choroid coat (b) Sclerotic coat
(c) Rods (d) Cones
29. The famous Lagoon lake of India is
(a) Dal Lake (b) Chilka Lake
(c) Pulicat Lake (d) Manasarovar
30. The splitting of different colours of light in a prism is
(a) Reflection of light (b) Dispersion of light
(c) Diffraction of light (d) Refraction of light
31. Where are most of the earth's active volcanoes concentrated?
(a) Europe (b) Pacific Ocean
(c) Africa (d) South America
32. The deflection of the winds to the right in the northern hemisphere is caused by.
(a) revolution of the earth (b) rotation of the earth
(c) uneven heating of the earth (d) All the above
33. Which of the following is NOT one of the important steps in processing tea leaves?
(a) Rolling (b) Drying
(c) Fermenting (d) Withering
34. The Grand Canyon is located on the:
(a) Colorado River (b) Rhine River
(c) Tapi River (d) Niger River
35. The Savannah finds its ideal conditions of growth in:
(a) mild and humid climate
(b) dry summer and wet winter climate
(c) hot humid climate with long dry season
(d) hot summer and cool winter climate
36. What should be the proportion of forest cover for India to maintain her ecological balance?
(a) 11.1 per cent (b) 22.2 per cent
(c) 33.3 per cent (d) 44.4 per cent
37. Match List I with List II and find out the correct answer from the codes given below the lists:
- | List I
(Thermal Power Plants) | List II
(Locations) |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| A. Kahalgaon | 1. West Bengal |
| B. Farakka | 2. Bihar |
| C. Ramagundam | 3. Gujarat |
| D. Gandhar | 4. Andhra Pradesh |
- Codes:
- | | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| (b) | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| (c) | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| (d) | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
38. Which one of the following States/Union Territories of India recorded the lowest density of population in 1991 Census?
(a) Sikkim (b) Nagaland
(c) Mizoram (d) Arunachal Pradesh
39. Three of the following pairs are wrong. Find out the correct one:
(a) Written Constitution—England
(b) Unitary State—USA
(c) UN General Assembly—Veto power
(d) SAARC—No bilateral issues
40. In Indian Republic the real executive authority rests with the.
(a) Prime Minister (b) President
(c) Bureaucrats (d) Council of Ministers
41. The Secretary-General of the UN is appointed by the:
(a) General Assembly (b) Security Council
(c) Trusteeship Council (d) World Bank
42. Through which principle or device did Gandhiji strive to bridge economic inequalities?
(a) Abolition of machinery
(b) Establishment of village industries
(c) Trusteeship theory
(d) None of the above
43. Governance through trade union organizations is known as:
(a) Guild Socialism (b) Fabian Socialism
(c) Syndicalism (d) Liberalism
44. Postal voting is otherwise called:
(a) plural voting (b) proxy voting
(c) weighted voting (d) secret voting
45. Stability of the government is assured in:
(a) Parliamentary Form of Government

OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

- (b) Presidential Form of Government
- (c) Plural Executive System
- (d) Direct Democracy

46. According to the Indian Constitution, the vacancy in the office of the President of India shall be filled within

- (a) 1 month (b) 6 months (c) 3 months (d) 1 year

47. Who is the Tennis star to become World No. 1 seed at the youngest age?

- (a) Steffi Graf (b) Monica Seles
- (c) Chris Evert (d) Martina Hingis

48. What is 'Vishva Mohini'?

- (a) Name for India's Beauty Queen
- (b) The title given to Lata Mangeshkar for her contribution to music
- (c) An Indian ship
- (d) a famous book on Indian dances

49. The main function of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is:

- (a) enforcing of Uruguay Round Agreements
- (b) facilitating multi-lateral trade relations of member countries and reviewing trade policies
- (c) administering trade dispute settlement procedures
- (d) None of the above

50. Name the author of the book *A Passage to England*

- (a) E.M. Forster
- (c) Vikram Seth

- (b) Nirad C. Chowdhury
- (d) Eric Segal

ANSWERS

1. (a) 2. (d) 3. (c) 4. (c) 5. (a) 6. (d)
7. (a) 8. (a) 9. (c) 10. (c) 11. (a) 12. (b)
13. (d) 14. (d) 15. (d)
16. (c) The I.M.F. was established under the Bretton Woods of 1944
17. (c) 18. (d) 19. (a) 20. (d)
21. (d) (to make neither large profit nor a loss)
22. (a) 23. (c) 24. (c) 25. (b) 26. (c) 27. (a)
28. (a)
29. (c) It is salt water lagoon on the Coromandel Coast of Andhra Pradesh
30. (b) 31. (b) 32. (b) 33. (c) 34. (a) 35. (c)
36. (b) 37. (c)
38. (d) Density of population is 10 in Arunachal Pradesh.
39. (d) 40. (d)
41. (a) on recommendation of the UN Security Council.
42. (c) 43. (a) 44. (b) 45. (c) 46. (b) 47. (d)
48. (b) 49. (b) 50. (b)

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Quantitative Aptitude

West Bengal Cooperative Services Exam held on March 21 and April 18, 1999

1. A man receives an annual salary of Rs 7700 in 1998. This is 10% more than what his salary was in 1997. His salary in 1997 was:

- (a) Rs 6800 (b) Rs 6900
(c) Rs 7000 (d) Rs 7100

2. A florist bought 360 roses at Rs 8 per dozen. On selling all the roses at Re 1 each he made a profit of.

- (a) Rs 140 (b) Rs 150
(c) Rs 120 (d) Rs 156

3. A supply of corn for 20 horses lasts for 15 days. For 30 horses it will last for.

- (a) 6 days (b) 8 days
(c) 10 days (d) 12 days

4. $\frac{1}{4}$ th of a rod is yellow, $\frac{1}{8}$ th is red, $\frac{1}{12}$ th is green and $\frac{1}{16}$ th is blue and the remaining 138 cm is black. The length of the rod is (in cms):

- (a) 96 (b) 192 (c) 288 (d) 384

5. A sum of money amounts to Rs 1180 and Rs 1300 in 3 years and 5 years at a simple rate of interest per annum. The sum is:

- (a) Rs 900 (b) Rs 950
(c) Rs 1000 (d) Rs 1050

6. The average age of 6 boys is 14 years and the average of 5 of them is 13.8 years. What is the age of the other boy?

- (a) 10 years (b) 12 years
(c) 15 years (d) 16 years

7. A mixture measuring 40 litres contains spirit and water in the ratio of 3 to 1. What amount of water is to be added to it to bring the ratio to 5 to 2?

- (a) 2 litres (b) 3 litres
(c) 4 litres (d) 2.5 litres

8. The least number of four digits exactly divisible by 16, 24 and 36 is:

- (a) 1004 (b) 1008
(c) 1012 (d) 1016

9. The difference between $\frac{2}{3}$ rd and $\frac{1}{5}$ th of a number is 28. The number is:

- (a) 90 (b) 75 (c) 60 (d) 45

10. The price of one table and one chair is Rs 7000 and the price of 2 tables and 3 chairs is 18000. What is the price of one chair?

- (a) Rs 2000 (b) Rs 2500

- (c) Rs 3000 (d) Rs 4000

11. If the cost price of 6 articles be the same as the selling price of 5 articles, the profit will be:

- (a) 25% (b) $22\frac{1}{2}\%$
(c) 20% (d) $18\frac{3}{4}\%$

12. The sum of the present ages of father and son is 68 years. Eight years ago the ratio of their ages was 12 : 1. What will be the ratio after 4 years?

- (a) 13 : 2 (b) 14 : 3
(c) 15 : 4 (d) 16 : 5

13. A rectangular garden whose length is 3 times of its breadth has an area of 1200 sq metres. Its breadth is:

- (a) 25 metres (b) 24 metres
(c) 20 metres (d) 16 metres

14. Of three numbers prime to one another, the product of the first two is 187 and that of the last two is 451. The numbers are:

- (a) 15, 11, 7 (b) 14, 3, 19
(c) 19, 13, 15 (d) 17, 11, 41

15. The simplified value of $\frac{(1.3)^2 - .09}{3.2}$ is:

- (a) .5 (b) 1 (c) 2 (d) 2.5

16. 1 kg of tea and 1 kg of sugar together cost Rs 95. If the price of tea falls by 10% and that of sugar rises by 20% the amended price together comes to Rs 90. The previous price of tea per kg is:

- (a) Rs 60 (b) Rs 72 (c) Rs 80 (d) Rs 84

17. The simplified value of:

$$\frac{(2.3)^2 - .09}{(2.3)^2 - 0.6 \times 2.3 + .09}$$

- (a) 0.1 (b) 1 (c) 1.3 (d) 1.6

18. The product of two numbers is 5436. Half of one of these two numbers is 302. What is the other number?

- (a) 9 (b) 7 (c) 8 (d) 10

19. The difference between $\frac{3}{4}$ of 100 and $\frac{3}{4}\%$ of 100 is:

- (a) 75 (b) 25 (c) 74.25 (d) 85

20. The sides of two squares are 36 cms and 48 cms. A third square has its area equal to the sum of areas of the given squares. What is the length of each side of the said third square?

- (a) 50 cm (b) 54 cm (c) 60 cm (d) 65 cm

21. The simplified value of

OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

$1 + 1 + [1 + 1 + (1 + 1 + (1 + 1 + 2))]$ equals:

- (a) $\frac{9}{8}$ (b) $\frac{11}{8}$ (c) $\frac{13}{8}$ (d) $\frac{15}{8}$

22. The difference of the greatest and the least of the numbers of five digits that can be formed by 0, 2, 3, 4, 5 is.

- (a) 25694 (b) 33975 (c) 30870 (d) 36246

23. The sixth element of the sequence of numbers

$\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{9}, \frac{1}{14}, \dots$ is:

- (a) $\frac{1}{19}$ (b) $\frac{1}{22}$ (c) $\frac{1}{27}$ (d) $\frac{1}{26}$

24. If the product of two positive integers is 3888 and their L.C.M. is 216, their H.C.F. is

- (a) 12 (b) 14 (c) 16 (d) 18

25. The sum of all the perfect squares lying between 1 and 100 (both inclusive) is

- (a) 285 (b) 385 (c) 381 (d) 380

26. The positive integer nearest to 1000 and divisible by 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 is:

- (a) 1010 (b) 1020 (c) 1030 (d) 1040

27. The present average age of father and son is 32 years. 8 years ago, the ratio of their ages was 3 : 1. The present age of the son is:

- (a) 20 years (b) 22 years
(c) 24 years (d) 18 years

28. A tailor hires a workshop for a year at an annual rent of Rs 1800 00. After $5\frac{1}{2}$ months he admits another to an equal share of it. The rent paid by the second tailor is:

- (a) Rs 457.50 (b) Rs 487.50
(c) Rs 630 00 (d) Rs 550.00

29. Two partners A and B investing Rs 1,200 and Rs 800 respectively in a business made a profit of Rs 300 at the end of the term of business. The share of B in the profit is:

- (a) Rs 100 (b) Rs 105
(c) Rs 110 (d) Rs 120

30. In a school having 286 roll strength, the ratio of boys and girls is 8 : 5. If 22 more girls get admitted into the school, the ratio of boys and girls becomes:

- (a) 4 : 3 (b) 12 : 7
(c) 10 : 7 (d) 8 : 7

31. Out of the total population 6540 of a village, 35% are literate. The number of illiterates is:

- (a) 4015 (b) 3926 (c) 4251 (d) 4125

32. The perimeter of a rectangular ground is 120 metres. The difference between the length and breadth is 12 metres. The area of the ground is:

- (a) 848 sq metres (b) 864 sq metres
(c) 932 sq metres (d) 928 sq metres

33. The cost of fencing a square park of area 82944 sq metres is Rs 864.00. The cost of fencing per metre is:

- (a) Rs 2.00 (b) Rs 0.75
(c) Rs 3.00 (d) Rs 3.50

34. The interest due to an amount x in 6 years at the rate of 3% equals the interest due to the amount y in 4 years at the rate of 5%. The amounts x and y are in the ratio:

- (a) 5 : 4 (b) 4 : 5 (c) 10 : 9 (d) 9 : 10

35. A salesman sells an article at 20% loss. If he charges Rs 100 more, his profit is 5%. The cost price of the article is:

- (a) Rs 200 (b) Rs 400
(c) Rs 300 (d) Rs 500

36. Two carpenters can complete 2 tables in 2 days. In 5 days, 6 carpenters can complete x tables where:

- (a) x = 10 (b) x = 12 (c) x = 15 (d) x = 18

37. The first January of 1998 was Sunday. 13th April, 1998 will be:

- (a) Monday (b) Tuesday
(c) Wednesday (d) Thursday

38. In a mixture of 72 litres of milk and water mixed in proportion of 11 : 1, the quantity of water in litres that must be added so that milk and water may be in the ratio 6 : 1 is:

- (a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6

39. A tax payer is exempted of income tax for the first Rs 40,000 annual income and for the rest of the income he has to pay tax at the rate of 20%. If he pay Rs 3,160 annually as income tax, his monthly income is

- (a) Rs 4,400 (b) Rs 4,550
(c) Rs 4,500 (d) Rs 4,650

40. Rice of the same quality is sold from four shops A, B, C, D as follows:

- A sells 5 kgs at Rs 80 00
B sells 500 gms at Rs 7.50
C sells a kg at Rs 14.00
D sells a quintal at Rs 1,550 00
A consumer profits if he buys from shop
(a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D

41. A cistern is fitted with an inlet pipe which fills up the empty cistern in 15 mins and an outlet pipe which empties the full cistern in an hour. If both the taps are open, the empty cistern fills up in

- (a) 18 mins (b) 25 mins
(c) 22 mins (d) 20 mins

42. In an alloy weighing 120 kgs of tin, copper and zinc, the percentages of tin and copper are 35 and 40 respectively. The quantity of zinc in the alloy is:

- (a) 20 kgs (b) 25 kgs (c) 30 kgs (d) 35 kgs

43. In dividing Rs 200 among 4 men, 6 women and 8 boys, each man gets double that of a woman and each woman gets triple that of a boy. The share of a boy in rupees is:

- (a) 2 (b) 4 (c) 3 (d) 5

44. A swimmer swims 10 km in half an hour down the stream and 12 km per hour up the stream. The velocity of the stream is:

- (a) 3 km/h (b) 6 km/h
(c) 5 km/h (d) 4 km/h

45. An urn contains 15 litres of milk. 5 litres of it is removed and replaced by 5 litres of water. Again, from the urn 5 litres of the present mixture is withdrawn and replaced by 5 litres of

water. Finally the quantity of milk remaining in the urn is:

- (a) 6 litres (b) $6\frac{2}{3}$ litres
(c) 7 litres (d) $7\frac{1}{3}$ litres

46. Out of 87 students in a class, 35 students pass in English, while 47 pass in Mathematics. 15 students fail in both the subjects. A student is promoted to the next higher class if he passes in both the subjects. The number of students promoted on the basis of the examination held is:

- (a) 10 (b) 12 (c) 14 (d) 16

47. When the price of edible oil reduces by 20%, a consumer increases the quantity of oil used by 20%. The expenditure

- (a) increases by 4% (b) increases by 5%
(c) decreases by 4% (d) decreases by 5%

48. A train starting from Howrah moves with uniform velocity v_1 towards Bandel. Another train starting from Bandel at the same instant moves with uniform velocity v_2 towards Howrah. After meeting at a place in their course, they reach their destinations in 5 mins and 20 mins respectively. Then v_1/v_2 is:

- (a) $\frac{1}{2}$ (b) 2 (c) $\frac{1}{3}$ (d) 3

49. The price of fuel has increased by 25%. A man intends to keep the monthly expenditure of fuel unaltered. He should reduce the consumption of quantity of fuel by:

- (a) 20% (b) 15% (c) 18% (d) 25%

50. The minute-hand of a clock is found to cross the hour-hand x minutes past three. Then:

- (a) $x = 10\frac{10}{11}$ (b) $x = 21\frac{9}{11}$
(c) $x = 16\frac{4}{11}$ (d) $x = 18$

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (c) Let his salary in 1997 be Rs x
A.T.S. $(100 + 10)\%$ of $x = 7700 \Rightarrow x = 7000$
2. (c) $P = S.P. - C.P. = 360 \times 1 - 360 \times \frac{8}{12} = \text{Rs } 120$
3. (c) Inverse variation $20 : 30 = x : 15 \Rightarrow x = 10$
4. (c) $x - (\frac{x}{4} + \frac{x}{8} + \frac{x}{12} + \frac{x}{16}) = 138 \Rightarrow x = 288 \text{ cm}$
5. (c) S.I. for 2 yrs = $1300 - 1180 = \text{Rs } 120$
 $\therefore$ S.I. for 3 yrs = $120 \times \frac{3}{2} = \text{Rs } 180$
 $P = A - \text{S.I.} = 1180 - 180 = \text{Rs } 1000$
6. (c) Age of the other boy = $6 \times 14 - 5 \times 13.8 = 15 \text{ yrs}$
7. (a) Spirit = $\frac{3}{3+1} \times 40 = 30$ $\therefore$ water = $40 - 30 = 10$ l
A.T.S. $\frac{30}{10+x} = \frac{5}{2} \Rightarrow x = 2$

8. (b) L.C.M. of 16, 24, 36 = 144

Least no. of four digits = 1000

When 1000 is divided by 144, remainder = 136

$\therefore$ Reqd no. = $1000 + (144 - 136) = 1008$

9. (c) $\frac{2}{3}x - \frac{1}{5}x = 28 \Rightarrow x = 60$

10. (d) Let the cost of a chair be Rs y and that of a table Rs x

$\therefore x + y = 7000 \dots (i)$

$2x + 3y = 18000 \dots (ii)$

Solving (i) and (ii), we get $y = \text{Rs } 4000$

11. (c) Let S.P. of 1 article be Re 1 $\therefore$ S.P. of 6 articles = Rs 6

C.P. of 6 articles = S.P. of 5 articles = Rs 5

$\therefore P = 6 - 5 = 1$

$P\% = \frac{1}{5} \times 100 = 20\%$

12. (c) Let father's present age be x yrs

$\therefore$ son's present age = $68 - x$

A.T.S. $\frac{x-8}{68-x-8} = \frac{12}{1} \therefore x = 56$

$\therefore$ Son's present age = $68 - 56 = 12 \text{ yrs}$

Ratio of age after 4 yrs = $\frac{56+4}{12+4} = \frac{60}{16} = \frac{15}{4}$

13. (c) Let $B = x \text{ m}$ $\therefore L = 3x$

$A = L \times B = 3x \times x = 1200 \Rightarrow x = 20 \text{ m}$

14. (d) 15 & 14 are not prime nos $\therefore$ Ans = (d)

A no. which is divisible by itself or by 1 is called a prime no.

Condition is also satisfied by 'd'

15. (a) $\frac{(1.3)^2 - .09}{3.2} = \frac{(1.3)^2 - (.3)^2}{3.2}$

$= \frac{(1.3+.3)(1.3-.3)}{3.2} = \frac{1.6 \times 1.0}{3.2} = \frac{1}{2} = .5$

16. (c) Let the cost of 1 kg of tea be Rs x and that of sugar be Rs y $\therefore x + y = 95 \dots (i)$

$\frac{90}{100}x + \frac{120}{100}y = 90$ or $3x + 4y = 300 \dots (ii)$

Solving (i) and (ii), $x = 80$

17. (c) $\frac{(2.3)^2 - (.3)^2}{(2.3)^2 - 2 \times 2.3 \times .3 + (.3)^2}$
 $= \frac{(2.3-.3)(2.3+.3)}{(2.3-.3)^2} = \frac{2 \times 2.6}{2^2} = 1.3$

18. (a) Let the nos. be x and y

A.T.S. $\frac{x}{2} = 302 \therefore x = 604, y = \frac{5436}{604} = 9$

19. (c) $\frac{3}{4} \times 100 - \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{100} \times 100 = 75 - .75 = 74.25$

20. (c) Area of third square = $36^2 + 48^2$

Its side = $\sqrt{36^2 + 48^2} = 60$

21 (c) Use BODMAS

22 (b) Difference = $54320 - 20345 = 33975$

23 (c) Each term is got by adding 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 to the deno of preceding term

$$\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2+3}, \frac{1}{5+4}, \frac{1}{9+5}, \frac{1}{14+6}, \frac{1}{20+7}$$

Sixth term = $\frac{1}{27}$

24 (d) HCF = Product of two nos - LCM
= $3888 - 216 = 18$

25 (b) Reqd sum = $1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots + 10^2 = \sum_{n=1}^{10} n^2$
= $\frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6} = \frac{10(10+1)(2 \times 10 + 1)}{6}$
= $\frac{10 \times 11 \times 21}{6} = 385$

26 (b) LCM of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 - 60

When 1000 is divided by 60, R = 40

Reqd no = $1000 + (60 - 40) = 1020$

The no 1000 - 40 = 960 is also divisible by the given nos but 1020 is nearest to 1000

27 (a) Let son's present age be x yrs
Father's age = $(64 - x)$ yrs
Total age of father and son = $32 \times 2 = 64$
A.T.S. $\frac{64 - x - 8}{x - 8} = \frac{3}{1} \Rightarrow x = 20$

28 (b) Remaining time = $12 - 5\frac{1}{2} = 6\frac{1}{2} = \frac{13}{2}$

Rent per month = $\frac{1800}{12} = 150$

Rent for $\frac{13}{2}$ months = $150 \times \frac{13}{2}$

Rent paid by second tailor = $150 \times \frac{13}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = 487.50$

29 (d) Ratio of profits = Ratio of the investments
= $1200 : 800 = 3 : 2$

Profit of B = $\frac{2}{3+2} \times 300 = \text{Rs } 120$

30 (a) Boys = $\frac{8}{8+5} \times 286 = 176$ Girls = 110

A.T.S. $\frac{176}{110+22} = \frac{176}{132} = \frac{4}{3}$

31 (c) Illiterates = $(100 - 35)\% = 65\%$

No of illiterates = $\frac{65}{100} \times 6540 = 4251$

32 (b) $2(L + B) = 120$. $L + B = 60$

Let B = x L = 12 + x

$12 + x + x = 60 \Rightarrow x = 24, L = 36$

Area = $L \times B = 36 \times 24 = 864 \text{ sq m}$

33 (b) Side of a square park = $\sqrt{\text{Area}} = \sqrt{87944} = 298 \text{ m}$
Perimeter = $4 \times 288 \text{ m}$

Cost of fencing/m = $\frac{\text{Total cost}}{\text{Perimeter}} = \frac{864}{4 \times 288} = \text{Rs } 0.75$

34 (c) $\frac{x \times 3 \times 6}{100} - \frac{y \times 5 \times 4}{100} \Rightarrow \frac{x}{y} = \frac{10}{9}$

35 (b) Let CP = Rs 100, P = 5% then SP = Rs 105

Loss = 20% SP = $100 - 20 = \text{Rs } 80$

Difference = $105 - 80 = 25$

If difference is 25 then CP = Rs 100

If difference is 100 then CP = $\frac{100}{25} \times 100 = \text{Rs } 400$

Carpenters	Days	Tables
2	2	2
6	5	x

More carpenters more tables $\frac{2}{6} \times \frac{6}{5} = \frac{2}{5} \times x$

More days more tables $\frac{2}{5} \times \frac{5}{2} = 1$

$2 \times 2 \times x - 2 \times 6 \times 5 \Rightarrow x = 15$

37 (d) No of odd days in Jan = 2
in Feb = 0 (1998 is not a leap year)
in March = 3 Days in Feb = 28
in April = 13

$\frac{18}{7} = 2 \text{ weeks} + 4 \text{ odd days}$

On 1st January 1998, it was Sunday

13th April will fall on 4 days beyond Sunday

So it will be Thursday

38 (c) Milk = $\frac{11}{11+1} \times 72 = 66$ Water = 6 l

A.T.S. $\frac{66}{6+x} - \frac{6}{1} \Rightarrow x = 5$

39 (d) Total income (Annual) = $40000 + 3160 \times \frac{100}{20} = 55800$

Monthly income = $55800 - 12 = 4650$

40 (c) A's SP/kg = $\frac{8000}{5} = \text{Rs } 16$

B's SP/kg = $7.50 \times \frac{1000}{500} = 15.00$

C's SP/kg = Rs 14, D's SP/kg = $\frac{1550}{100} = \text{Rs } 15.50$

A consumer profits if he buys from shop C

41 (d) Work done by both pipes in 1 min = $\frac{1}{15} + \frac{1}{60} = \frac{3}{60} = \frac{1}{20}$

Reqd time to fill up = 20 min

42 (c) % of zinc = $100 - 35 - 40 = 25$

Quantity of zinc in the alloy = $\frac{25}{100} \times 120 = 30 \text{ kgs}$

43. (b) Let 1 boy's share be Rs x

$\therefore$ 1 woman's share = $3x$ and 1 man's share = $6x$

A.T.S. $4 \times 6x + 6 \times 3x + 8x = 200 \Rightarrow x = \text{Rs } 4$

44. (d) Let swimmer's speed in still water be $x \text{ km/hr}$ and that stream be $y \text{ km/hr}$. Speed downstream = $x + y$, speed upstream = $x - y$

$$D = S \times T \quad (x + y) \frac{1}{2} = 10 \quad \dots (i)$$

$$(x - y) \times 1 = 12 \quad \dots (ii)$$

Solving (i) & (ii), we get $y = 4 \text{ km/hr}$

45. (b) If an urn contains x litres of milk and y litres are taken out and replaced by water. After n operations, the amount of milk in the urn

$$= x \left(1 - \frac{y}{x}\right)^n = 15 \left(1 - \frac{5}{15}\right)^2 = \frac{20}{3} = 6\frac{2}{3} \text{ l}$$

46. (a) Students failed in Eng. = $87 - 35 = 52$, in Math = 40
15 failed in both

$$n(A \cup B) = n(A) + n(B) - n(A \cap B)$$

$$= 52 + 40 - 15 = 77$$

No. of students failed in at least one of the subjects

$$= n(A \cup B) = 77$$

$\therefore$ No of students promoted = $87 - 77 = 10$

47. (c) Let the price/kg = Rs x , Quantity = $y \text{ kg}$

$$\text{Total exp.} = xy, \text{ New exp.} = \frac{(100 - 20)}{100} x \times \frac{120}{100} y = \frac{96}{100} xy$$

$$\therefore \text{Decrease in exp.} = xy - \frac{96}{100} xy = \frac{4}{100} xy$$

$$\text{Decrease\%} = \frac{4}{100} xy \times \frac{100}{xy} = 4$$

$$48. (b) \frac{v_1}{v_2} = \sqrt{\frac{t_2}{t_1}} = \sqrt{\frac{20}{5}} = \frac{2}{1} = 2:1$$

49. (a) Let original price be = Rs 100

Increased price = $100 + 25 = \text{Rs } 125$

Reduction on 125 = Rs 25

$$\text{Reduction on } 100 = \frac{25}{125} \times 100 = 20$$

Reduction in consumption should be 20%

50. (c) In 60 min, the minute hand gains 55 min on hour hand.

At 3 o'clock, the minute hand is 15 min spaces apart. To cross, it must gain 15 min spaces

55 min are gained by min hand in 60 min

$$\therefore 15 \text{ min are gained by min hand in } = \frac{60}{55} \times 15 = 16\frac{4}{11}$$

$$\therefore x = 16\frac{4}{11}$$

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE REFRESHER

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Test of Reasoning-1

Staff Selection Commission Combined Preliminary Exam held on 4.7.99
(Afternoon Session)

Directions: In question no. 1 to 4, find the related word, letters or numbers to complete the analogy.

1. 'Classroom' is related to 'Students' in the same way as 'Theatre' is related to:

(A) Movies (B) Dramas (C) News (D) Actors

2. ACEG : DFHJ :: QSUW : ?

(A) TUVW (B) TVXZ (C) TUWX (D) TUWZ

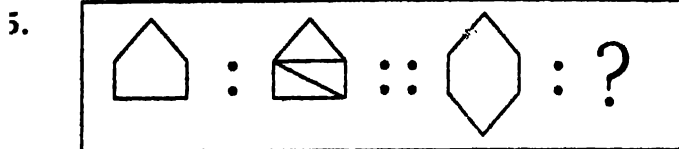
3. 11 : 21 :: 12 : ?

(A) 20 (B) 24 (C) 23 (D) 25

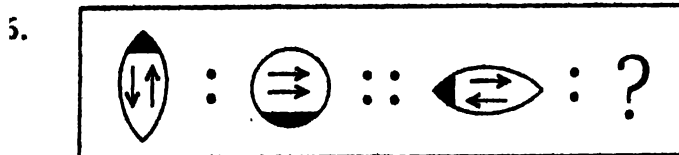
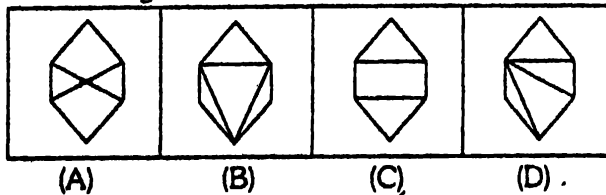
4. 3234 : 3185 :: 8017 : ?

(A) 7967 (B) 8066 (C) 7968 (D) 8109

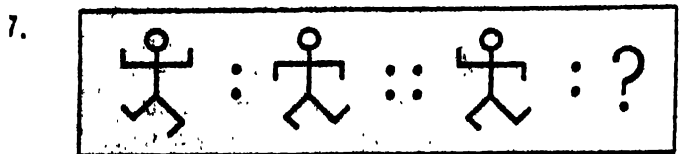
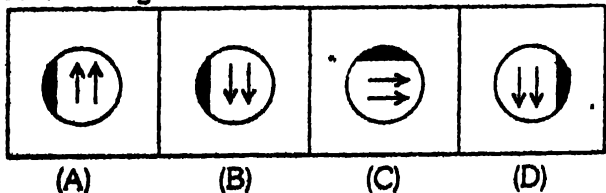
Directions: In question no. 5 to 7, select the related figure from the answer figures.



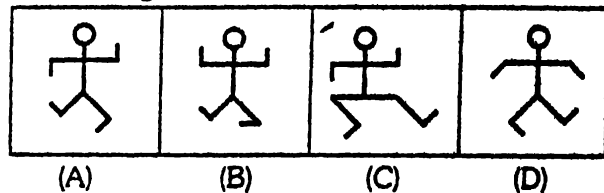
Answer Figures :



Answer Figures :

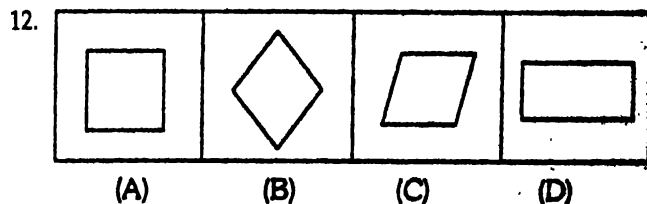


Answer Figures :



Directions: In question no. 8 to 12, select the odd word/letters/ number-pair/figure from the given alternatives.

8. (A) New Delhi (B) New York
(C) Beijing (D) Berlin
9. (A) Devastate (B) Deteriorate
(C) Discredit (D) Distract
10. (A) POUT (B) GILK
(C) BATS (D) FEJI
11. (A) 20-36 (B) 30-46 (C) 50-56 (D) 60-66



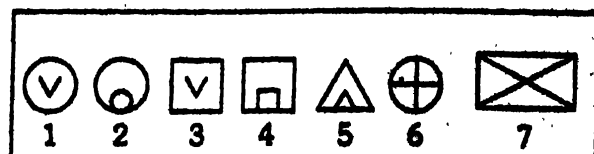
Directions: In question no. 13 and 14, from the given alternatives, select the one in which the set of numbers is most like the set of numbers given in the question.

13. Given set: 13, 16, 22
(A) 7, 10, 15 (B) 10, 13, 19
(C) 19, 21, 27 (D) 15, 21, 18
14. Given set: 11, 15, 31
(A) 6, 10, 21 (B) 20, 25, 51
(C) 7, 11, 27 (D) 22, 30, 62

15. Which of the two words given below do *not* have the same relationship with each other as the words SWEET and BITTER?

- (A) POINTED and BLUNT (B) LONG and HIGH
(C) HARD and SOFT (D) THIN and THICK

16. A series of figures are given which can be grouped into classes. Select the group into which the figures can be classified from the given responses.



- (A) 1, 2, 6; 3, 4, 7; 5
(B) 1, 2, 6, 7; 3; 4, 5
(C) 1, 3; 2, 6; 4, 5, 7
(D) 1, 3, 2, 4, 5; 6, 7

Directions: In question no 17 to 19, find the missing number in the series

- 17 9, 21, 48, 105, 222, ?
(A) 443 (B) 445 (C) 457 (D) 459
18. 25, 35, 34, 47, ?, 59
(A) 57 (B) 43 (C) 46 (D) 56
19. 2, 5, 11, 23, ?
(A) 39 (B) 45 (C) 46 (D) 47

20. Which one set of letters when sequentially placed at the gaps in the given letter series shall complete it?

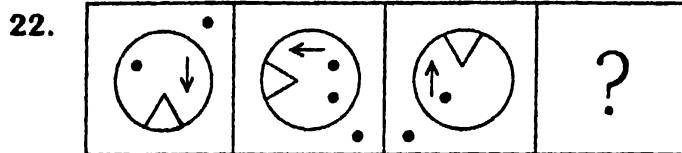
A _EG; AC _G; _CEG; ACE _

- (A) AECG (B) CEAG (C) CEGA (D) ECGA

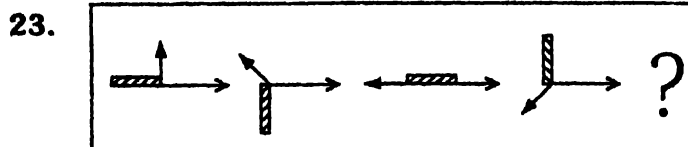
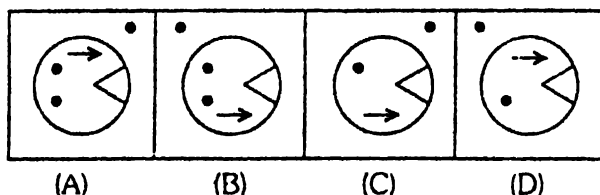
21 Which one of the given responses would be a meaningful order of the following?

1. Phrase 2. Paragraph 3. Sentence
4. Words 5. Letters
(A) 1, 3, 5, 4, 2 (B) 1, 4, 3, 5, 2
(C) 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 (D) 5, 4, 1, 3, 2

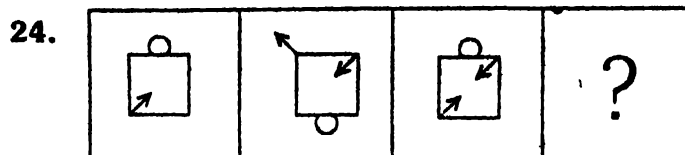
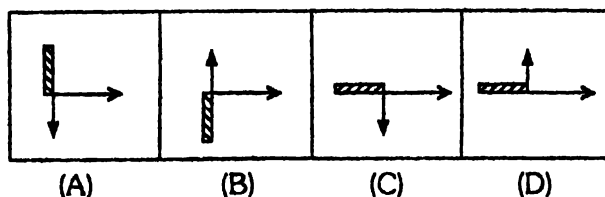
Directions: In question no 22 to 24, find the missing figure in the series from the given answer figures to replace the sign '?'



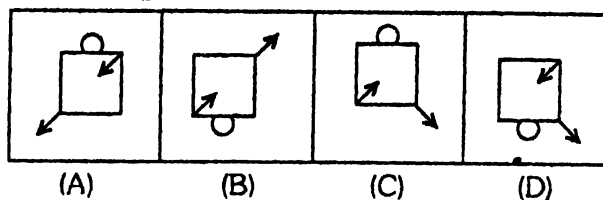
Answer Figures :



Answer Figures :



Answer Figures :



25. You travel towards north 4 km, then turn left and travel towards west 2 km, then again turn left and travel 4 km. How far are you from the starting point?

- (A) 1 km (B) 2 km (C) 3 km (D) 4 km

26 At present the father is older than the son by 25 years. After 13 years the father's age becomes double that of the son. What is the son's age now?

- (A) 12 (B) 13 (C) 14 (D) 15

27 Examinations in five subjects P, Q, R, S and T were conducted and students X, Y and Z wrote some of these. X wrote only two papers and they were not written by either Y or Z. P and Q were written by two students each. Only one student wrote T and he wrote Q also. If Z wrote only two papers, then which subjects were written by Y?

- (A) Only P and Q (B) Only Q and T
(C) Q, T and R (D) P, Q and T

28. In a class test of 50 candidates one candidate is ranked 20. What is his rank from bottom?

- (A) 29 (B) 28 (C) 30 (D) 31

29. In a certain code language 'DIVISION' is written as 'DVISIOIN'. How is 'STATES' written in that code language?

- (A) STTAES (B) SAETTS (C) SATETS (D) STAETS

30 If A = 1, B = 2, C = 4, D = 8 etc. then D + E + A + F = ?
(A) 51 (B) 57 (C) 62 (D) 59

31. If 'CALCULATOR' is written as 'UJSUOSJGVM', 'CHECK' is written as 'UKWUA', how will 'CORRECT' be written?

- (A) UOSSEUT (B) UVMMWUG
(C) UKWGVMO (D) UJSUWUA

32. In a code language 'HALF' is written as 'IAMG' and 'TWICE' is written as 'UXIDE'. How would you write 'OFTEN' in that code language?

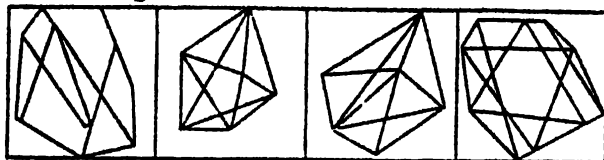
- (A) PGUFO (B) OGUFO
(C) OGUEO (D) PGUEO

Directions: In question no. 33 and 34, find the answer figure in which the given figure is embedded.

33.

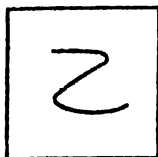


Answer Figures :

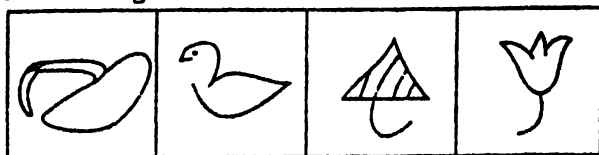


(A) (B) (C) (D)

34.



Answer Figures :



(A) (B) (C) (D)

Directions: In question no 35 to 37, a statement is given followed by two assumptions I and II. Which one of the four given alternatives is correct?

Statement:

35. Population is the greatest pollutant.

Assumption

- I. Increased population is the greatest resource
- II. Illiterate masses leads to dirt and degradation.

- (A) Only I is implicit.
- (B) Only II is implicit.
- (C) Both I and II are implicit.
- (D) Neither I nor II is implicit

Statement:

36. Education transforms man into manpower.

Assumption:

- I. There is a direct relation between education and development of man's abilities, skills and knowledge.
- II. Education makes a man powerful.

- (A) Only I is implicit.
- (B) Only II is implicit.
- (C) Both I and II are implicit.
- (D) Neither I nor II is implicit.

Statement:

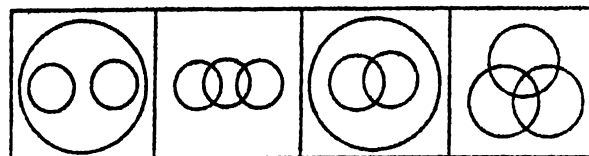
37. All the people in Kerala are literate.

Assumption:

- I. People of Kerala are well-educated and cultured.
- II. People of Kerala are hard-working and sincere.

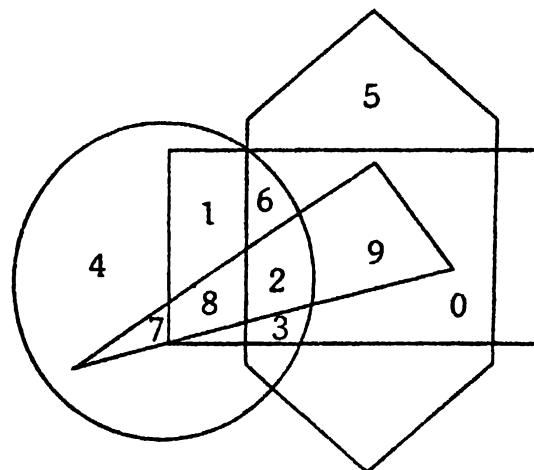
- (A) Only I is implicit.
- (B) Only II is implicit.
- (C) Both I and II are implicit.
- (D) Neither I nor II is implicit.

38. Which one of the following figures represents Asians, Indians and Japanese?



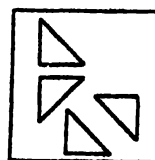
(A) (B) (C) (D)

39. Which number is in all the geometrical figures?

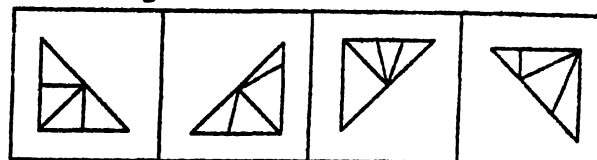


(A) 9 (B) 6 (C) 2 (D) 8

40. Which one pattern, out of the four answer figures, would these cut out pieces in the given figure make?

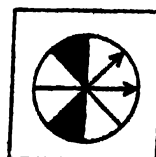


Answer Figures :

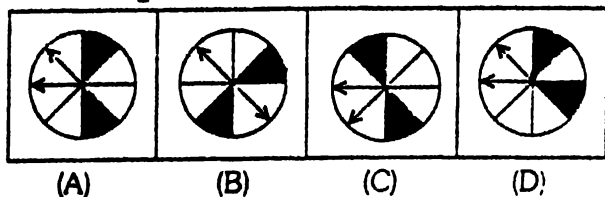


(A) (B) (C) (D)

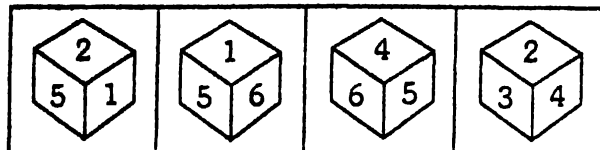
41. Which of the answer figures is exactly the mirror image of the given figure?



Answer Figures :

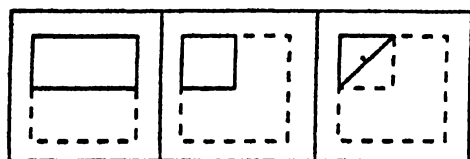


42. The four given figures represent four different views of a numbered cube. Which number is on the face opposite to 4?

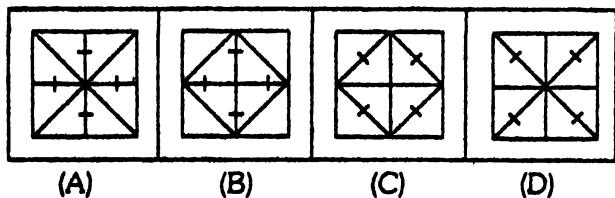


(A) 1 (B) 2 (C) 3 (D) 4

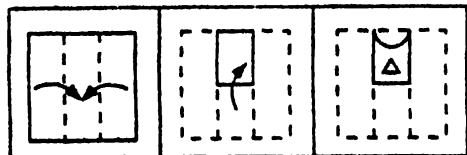
43. A piece of paper is folded as in the given figure and a cut is made as shown therein. When opened, how will it appear?



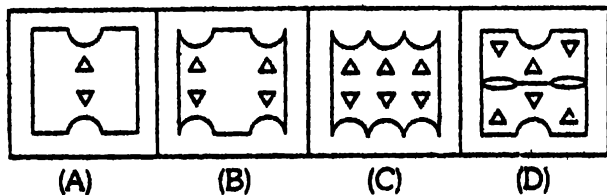
Answer Figures :



44. A piece of paper is folded as in the given figure, the top portion is cut and it is punched in the middle in a triangular shape. When opened, how will it appear?

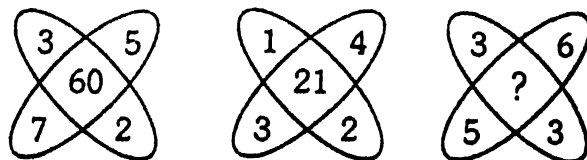


Answer Figures :



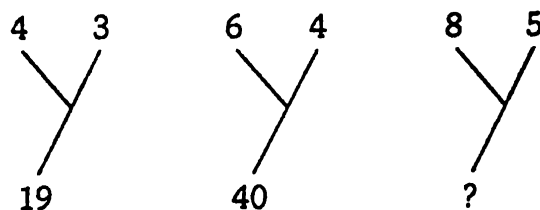
Directions: In question no. 45 to 47, find the missing number from the given responses.

45. $\begin{matrix} 6 & 4 & 5 \\ 3 & 2 & ? \\ 8 & 7 & 1 \end{matrix}$
 144 56 45
 (A) 9 (B) 46 (C) 48 (D) 122



(A) 55 (B) 12 (C) 17 (D) 66

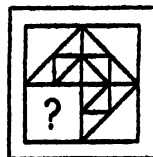
47



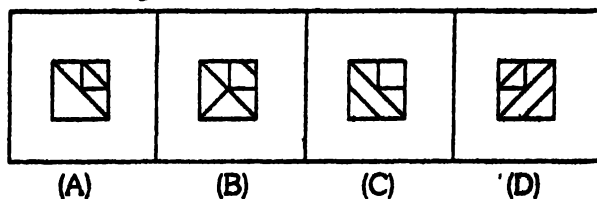
(A) 66 (B) 69 (C) 40 (D) 56

Directions: In question no 48 and 49, which answer figure will complete the given figure?

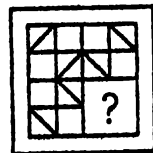
48.



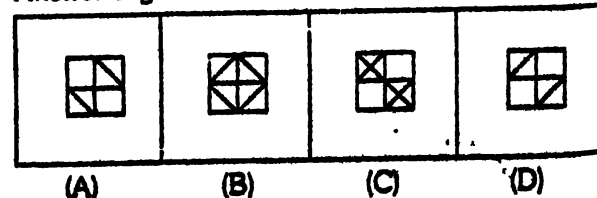
Answer Figures :



49.



Answer Figures :

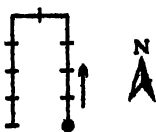


50. From the alternatives find the word that cannot be formed using the given word METROPOLITAN.

- (A) MATRIC (B) MATTER
(C) POLITE (D) TITAN

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (D) They have the place and performers relationship.
2. (B) Mark the gap among letters.
3. (C) The second number is double minus one of the first number.
4. (C) Both the numbers have difference of 49.
5. (D) All the lines inside the main figure start from the same point and are three less in number than the lines in the outer figure.
6. (D) Black portion is shifted to the other side and arrows point in the same direction.
7. (A) All the positions are reversed.
8. (B) All the others are capital towns of their States.
9. (D) This means absent-minded, all the others are used in negative sense.
10. (B) In all the others, the first two letters, although in reverse order, do not have a gap in between.
11. (C) In all the others, the second number is 16 more than the first one.
12. (D) In all the others, all the four sides of the figures are equal.
13. (B) The difference among the numbers is the same, 3 and 6.
14. (C) Same as above; the difference is 4 and 16.
15. (B) All the others are opposites.
16. (D) The first set has a similar figure inside; in the next one the inner and the outer figures are the same and in the third one, two lines are drawn that divide the figures into four parts.
17. (D) The arrangement is: $9 \times 2 + 3 = 21$; $21 \times 2 + 6 = 48$; $48 \times 2 + 9 = 105$; $105 \times 2 + 12 = 222$; $222 \times 2 + 15 = 459$.
18. (B) There are two series, 25, 34, 43 where the numbers have a difference of '9' and 35, 47, 59 with a difference of 12.
19. (D) Go on adding 3, 6, 12, 24 ... to numbers respectively.
20. (B) The repeated set is ACEG.
21. (D) Letters form words, words phrases, then there are sentences and finally paragraph.
22. (B) Mark the relationship between the first two figures.
23. (C) The arrow has an anti-clockwise movement and the block with slanting lines also has a marked movement.
24. (D) The small circle goes up and down and one of the arrows in and out from corner to corner clockwise.
25. (B)



26. (A) Son is 12, father 37; after 13 years, son $12 + 13 = 25$; father $37 + 13 = 50$.

Cand. Sub ↓ →	P	Q	R	S	T
X	-	-	✓	✓	-
Y	✓	✓	-	-	✓
Z	✓	✓	-	-	-

27. (D)



28. (D)

29. (C) After first letters, in each pair of letters, the letters interchange places.
30. (B) E would be 16 and F 32, hence $8 + 16 + 1 + 32 = 57$.
31. (B)
32. (C) Vowels don't change and all the other letters are replaced by the letter that comes after them in the alphabetical order.
33. (B) 34. (A) 35. (D) 36. (A) 37. (D)
38. (A) Asians is a general category. Indians and Japanese are two individual elements of this category.
39. (C) 40. (A) 41. (A) 42. (A) 43. (C)
44. (C)
45. (A) The number below each line is the product of numbers above, e.g., $6 \times 3 \times 8 = 144$ hence $5 \times 9 \times 1 = 45$
46. (D) The arrangement is, $(3 + 2) \times (5 + 7) = 60$; $(1 + 2) \times (3 + 4) = 21$ hence $(3 + 3) \times (5 + 6) = 66$.
47. (B) The arrangement is, $4^2 + 3 = 19$, $6^2 + 4 = 40$ hence $8^2 + 5 = 69$.
48. (A) 49. (D) 50. (A) There is no 'C' in the key word.

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Test of Reasoning - 2

Qs. 1-5. Which of the options from 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 should form the next set for the series of letters given below:

- 1 FGCF HJII KMII NPIO ?
(1) PQOR (2) RTOS (3) QSOR
(4) RSPI (5) None of these
- 2 ZYWT VUSP RQOL NMKH ?
(1) KIHG (2) KJHE (3) GDBA
(4) JIGD (5) None of these
- 3 BAZ DBY ICX HDW ?
(1) GEV (2) JIU (3) JFV
(4) IJU (5) None of these
- 4 ACZX FGVT IKRP MONL ?
(1) QSHJ (2) QTKI (3) QSJI
(4) QTJH (5) None of these
- 5 YAN WDM UGL SJK ?
(1) RNK (2) QMJ (3) PMI
(4) PNJ (5) None of these

Qs. 6-8. The lead word for answering these questions is EDUCATION

6 How many sets of two letters in the word EDUCATION have as many letters between them as they have in the alphabetical order?

- (1) 2 (2) 3 (3) 4
(4) 5 (5) There are no such sets

7 and 8 In following questions four of the five words given are related to the lead word in the same way while one is different. You have to find this odd-man out

- 7 (1) NECK (2) CLOUD (3) CAUTION
(4) DICTION (5) TRACE
8 (1) TUNE (2) ACTION (3) DONATE
(4) DENOTE (5) DATE

Qs. 9-14 Given below is a series of letters, numbers and symbols. Study the series carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Q Δ Ø R 3 G 8 F □ K W # Y 6 N 5 Y ↑ P
Q Δ 7 R 4 □ 5 A 6 ↑ R □

9 What is the ratio between the letters and numbers in the series? If a letter or number has been used more than once, it is to be counted as one only

- (1) 2 : 1 (2) 3 : 2 (3) 3 : 4
(4) 5 : 3 (5) None of these

10 How many letters have numbers on their left and right, which, when added together have a total of 11?

- (1) 2 (2) 3 (3) 4 (4) 5 (5) 6

11 What is the ratio between the numbers of numericals and symbols? If a number or symbol occurs more than once, it

has to be counted as one only

- (1) 3 : 4 (2) 3 : 1 (3) 1 : 3
(4) 2 : 3 (5) None of these

12 How many letters have a symbol on their left as well as on their right?

- (1) 2 (2) 3 (3) 4 (4) 5 (5) None

13 What is the total of number, letters and symbols that occur more than once in the series?

- (1) 7 (2) 8 (3) 9 (4) 6 (5) 10

14. Find the odd-man out:

- (1) R38K (2) # Y N ↑ (3) Δ 74A
(4) 5 Y P Δ (5) □ W Y 5

Qs. 15-20. Each of the following questions has a word and the letters of the word are given in their coded forms as well. All the words follow the same code for their letters. Your task is to find out the code letter for the letter of the word enclosed in box.

15 S U N D A Y

- (1) b (2) g (3) h (4) d (5) k (6) c

16 M O N D A Y

- (1) h (2) g (3) q (4) c (5) b (6) z

17 T H R E A D

- (1) p (2) f (3) b (4) g (5) m (6) v

18 B E A U T Y

- (1) v (2) f (3) j (4) w (5) d (6) g

19 T U R B A N

- (1) g (2) d (3) c (4) m (5) j (6) f

20 D O N K E Y

- (1) w (2) b (3) z (4) v (5) l (6) c

Qs. 21-25. In each of the following questions five words are given. Four of the items are alike in some way or the other while one is different. Your task is to find this odd-man out:

- 21 (1) cyclone (2) typhoon (3) cascade
(4) tornado (5) hurricane

- 22 (1) exemption (2) transgression (3) evasion
(4) infraction (5) disobedience

- 23 (1) reverence (2) obligation (3) justification
(4) patriotism (5) perception

- 24 (1) vertebra (2) scapula (3) femur
(4) aorta (5) spine

- 25 (1) seal (2) porpoise (3) walrus
(4) crab (5) chameleon

NON-VERBAL SERIES

Given below are two sets of figures, the problem figures and the answer figures marked A, B, C, D and E. You have to find out which of the answer figures should come next in the series of problem figures.

PROBLEM FIGURES

ANSWER FIGURES

	PROBLEM FIGURES					ANSWER FIGURES					
						A	B	C	D	E	
26.											
27.											
28.											
29.											
30.											
31.											
32.											
33.											
34.											
35.											
36.											
37.											
38.											

					A	B	C	D	E
39.									
40.									
41.									
42.									
43.	R K O F	R K O F	R K O F	R K O F	R K O F	R K O F	R K O F	R K O F	R K O F
44.									
45.									
46.									
47.									
48.									
49.									
50.									
51.									
52.									
53.									
54.									
55.									

REASONING ABILITY

Given below are four pairs of figures marked A, B, C and D. The two figures in three sets have a definite relationship while one is different. Your task is to find this odd-man out:

	A	B	C	D
56.				
57.				
58.				
59.				
60.				
61.				
62.				
63.				
64.				
65.				

In each of the following questions, a part of the figure is missing. The missing parts are numbered (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5). Your task is to match the figures with their missing parts.

66.		1)
67.		2)
68.		3)
69.		4)
70.		5)

Find the odd-man out:

	1	2	3	4	5
71.					
72.					
73.					
74.					
75.					

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- 1 (3) Gaps and arrangements remaining the same, the third letter of each set is the last letter of the preceding set.
 2. (4) Letters are in reverse order with gap increasing by one and the sets have a gap of one letter.
 - 3 (3) First letters are B, D, F, the second ones A, B, C, D, and the last one Z Y X W V
 4. (1) The first two letters occupy the same position in the alphabets as the next two from Z.
 5. (2) The first letters are Y W U S Q, the second one, A, D, G, J, M and the third one is N M L K J.
 6. (4) The letters are, E and D, A and D, A and E, D and I and O and N
 7. (3) All the others have an outside letter, this one has none.
 - 8 (4) In all the others, all letters are from the word EDUCATION, this one has an extra F
 9. (2) Letters are 9 and numbers 6
 - 10 (3) 11 (1) The numbers are 6 · 8. 12. (3)
 13. (2) 6 and 5, Q and R, $\Delta \square \uparrow$ and $\uparrow$. $2 + 2 + 4 = 8$
 14. (5) The arrangement is wrong.
- Qs 15-20 For solving these questions sort out common letters and match them with common codes, e.g., in questions 15 and 16, the first two letters are different 'O' occurs in question 20 also, so does the code letter 'z'. Hence 'z' is the code for 'O' and 'q' is the code for 'M'
- 15 (4) 16. (2) 17 (5) 18 (3) 19. (3)
 - 20 (1)
 - 21 (3) All the others are connected with storms.
 22. (1) All the other terms are related to unwillingness on the part of the subject.
 23. (5) All the others are moral emotions.
 24. (4) All the others are bones
 - 25 (5) All the others are water-creatures.
 26. (D) The pendulum swings in three steps. All the others occur alternately
 27. (A) The dot moves one and two steps alternately, the other two have regular movement but turn positions.
 - 28 (E) One extra line right and left is added.
 29. (E) Figures in opposite diagonals change position alternately.
 - 30 (C) Line to form triangle is added, hook and 'T' move in three steps and circle rests at one place in two blocks of the series
 - 31 (B) The figures rotate in opposite direction one by one.
 32. (A) The figure rotates changing pattern alternately and the dot and small circle change places.
 - 33 (C) Figure rotates anti-clockwise, arrow changes side after two steps, the 'V' goes round changing direction.
 34. (B) Three figures interchange positions clockwise, then change directions and go clockwise. The remaining one changes sides.
 35. (A) The lines forming petals go on increasing by one.
 36. (D) A line is added that changes into an arc. Side patterns interchange places
 - 37 (B) Three figures interchange places clockwise, then the

- remaining ones interchange places anti-clockwise. Then all the figures move a step ahead anti-clockwise.
38. (A) Two lines are added that form leaves. The figure at the top changes alternately and the one at the bottom in three steps.
 39. (B) The parachute has, three, two and four strings, the top pattern and the arms of the man change shape alternately.
 40. (C) The dark cone goes in and out anti-clockwise; the petal takes one extra step with each anti-clockwise movement with the dark portion going to the other side.
 41. (B) The set of first three figures follows an arrangement. The same arrangement is followed by the next set of figures.
 42. (D) Small and big lines are added at the top after two steps, the middle pattern is repeated after three steps, the flag shifts to the other end turning right and left and the nail goes from corner to corner.
 43. (D) Each letter rotates or turns position in a different way.
 - 44 (A) The ellipse slides down, the line with knobs goes up and down and the third figure slides from bottom to top in four steps.
 45. (E) Lines and dots are added alternately and the other figure changes alternately too
 - 46 (B) All figures have regular movements, arrow and triangle rotate while the 'v' turns upside down and *vice versa*
 47. (C) The figures are added according to a definite pattern.
 - 48 (E) The innermost pattern changes, one line is added to the outer pattern alternately which goes round clockwise
 49. (B) The bottom line goes to the top and all the figures go round anti-clockwise in next step.
 50. (A) Three up and down lines are permanent; the lines inside and outer figures move according to a pattern.
 51. (C) Small vertical line goes down, the dot goes down and then up and the pattern on the middle line goes to the other end.
 52. (D) The double line slides down and dot and cross are added by turns.
 53. (D) The pattern, dot and cross have a regular movement
 - 54 (B) Cap, legs and arms are to be studied separately.
 55. (D) Same as above.
- For answering questions 56 to 65, study the figures very carefully, check the number of lines in the pair, difference of lines in inner and outer figures, the way figures rotate or form relationship etc.
- 56 (C) 57. (D) 58. (C) 59. (B) 60. (A)
 61. (A) 62. (C) 63. (B) 64. (D) 65. (B)
 66. (3) 67. (4) 68. (1) 69. (5) 70. (2)
 71. (4) All the other figures have four straight lines, this one has five
 72. (4) In all the others, $\frac{1}{4}$ th part of the figure has pattern.
 73. (3) All the others are formed by a figure and its half part
 74. (5) In all the others, the sides have a difference of one.
 75. (1) The pattern is wrong.

Short Notes on National News

DEFENCE

Draft Nuclear doctrine unveiled

AFTER months of deliberations, the 27-member National Security Advisory Board (NSAB), headed by defence analyst K. Subrahmanyam, has come out with a document on the Indian Nuclear Doctrine (IND).

The document was released on August 17, 1999, by National Security Advisor Brajesh Mishra, and has been labelled as a "draft nuclear doctrine", pending discussion and approval by the National Security Council (NSC).

The main points of the draft nuclear doctrine are:

- Will pursue a doctrine of credible minimum nuclear deterrence.
- Won't be the first to initiate a nuclear strike, but will respond with positive retaliation.
- Won't use or threaten use of nuclear weapons against States not possessing such weapons or not aligned with nuclear weapon powers.
- Will maintain sufficient, survivable and operationally prepared nuclear forces as a part of deterrence.
- Will put into place a robust command and control system, vesting the release of nuclear weapons for use in the Prime Minister or the designated successor(s).

Do You Know...

Hiroshima day was observed on August 6, 1999. Hundreds of activists belonging to social and human rights organisations marched through New Delhi, from Red Fort to Kotle grounds, calling for global disarmament and peace, carrying slogans like "No more nuclear weapons". It was on this day in 1945 that America had dropped the first atom bomb on Hiroshima, followed by a similar bomb three days later on Nagasaki, leading to a world-wide nuclear race.

Economic News

RBI report predicts 6-6.5% real GDP growth

The country is set to enter the new millennium with a real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of over six per cent.

The Reserve Bank of India annual report for the year 1998-99 has projected a real GDP growth in the range of 6.0 to 6.5 per cent in the fiscal year 1999-2000.

'There are clear signs of improved economic prospects with stability reflecting the gains from the adoption of prudent and carefully designed macro-economic policies in recent years', the report stated.

However, at the same time, the report states that the gains at the turn of the new century need to be strengthened by pursuing with structural measures that reduce institutional rigidities and further the economic activity.

The improvement in real growth prospects has enhanced the chances of augmenting revenues, and it is essential that growth in expenditures is also contained within the budgeted limits.

According to the Reserve Bank, the rate of inflation is also likely to remain much below the long-term trend in fiscal 1999-2000.

Exports seem to have shown some signs of rebound in the first three months of 1999-2000, and while import bill is likely to grow, under the impact of rise in oil prices, inward remittances continue to be buoyant.

Capital inflows have also been at a reasonable level, helping to bridge the gap in current account deficit.

However, a lot depends on industrial recovery in the next nine months of fiscal 1999-2000. If the industrial recovery in the first three months is any indication, industrial production should increase at the rate averaged in the last four years, namely, about 7.0%.

In fact, the good signs are performance of capital good industries which acts as driving force of industrial growth. Similarly, the services sector has shown a tendency to post further gains whenever the agricultural and industrial sectors perform well.

On the States' finances, the RBI has cautioned and said that corrective action is needed to reduce chances of further fiscal slippage in State finances.

The RBI has further stated that the monetary policy has rendered it possible to maintain liquidity conditions in support of financial market and real sector activities, with the result that interest rates have been fairly stable in the current year so far.

The draft nuclear doctrine also states that India's security is an integral component of its development process and the country's strategic interests require effective, credible nuclear deterrence, and adequate retaliatory capability, should this fail.

According to the document, the concept shall encompass "sufficient, survivable and operationally prepared nuclear forces, a robust command and control structure, effective intelligence and early warning capabilities."

On nuclear weapons, the doctrine speaks of effective, enduring, diverse, flexible and responsive arsenal to the requirements in accordance with the concept of minimum nuclear deterrent. The nuclear arsenal will be based on aircraft, mobile land-based missiles

and sea-based assets. Essentially, it means that India would depend on strategic bomber command, Agni II, IRBM and a nuclear submarine for second strike capability.

The survivability of the forces would be enhanced by a combination of multiple systems, mobility, dispersion and deception.

The principles of credibility, effectiveness and survivability will be central to India's nuclear deterrent. The doctrine envisages a deterrent that has the capability of inflicting destruction and punishment that would be unacceptable to the aggressor in case of a nuclear weapons strike.

For effective deployment, the document seeks unity of command and control of nuclear forces, including dual capable delivery systems. It calls for

creation of space bases (high resolution satellites) and other assets to provide early warning so that the survivability of the nuclear arsenal and effective command, control communication, computing intelligence and information (C4I2) Systems are ensured

On safety and security—the document speaks of extraordinary precautions to ensure that nuclear weapons are guarded against theft, sabotage, damage or unauthorised access

US State department officials have characterized India's move to develop a nuclear deterrent as "unwise"

China also expressed its misgivings about the nuclear policy document. China "urged" India not to induct nuclear missiles into its arsenal and to renounce its nuclear weapons programme by implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1172

A top Russian expert on Indian Affairs cautioned India not to formulate its nuclear deterrence concept with an aim to sending signals to China as well

Also, in a tit-for-tat response, Pakistan announced on August 19 that it was giving "final touches" to its own nuclear doctrine. Pakistan Foreign Minister said that his government's nuclear doctrine would be based on the proposed strategic nuclear restraint regime discussed between India and

Do You Know...

India has 30 mammal species on the endangered list, ranking first in the world among nations with high number of such species in the "threatened" category. It is followed by US and China, each harbouring 29 mammal species in the threatened category. The list is maintained by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Geneva. The Indian mammal species in the endangered list include Asiatic lion, Indian tiger, leopard, snow leopard, rhinoceros, wolf, wild ass, Kashmir stag (hangul), Indus dolphin, Asian elephant and swamp deer.

India is now one billion plus

The United Nations' demographers stated that on August 15, 1999, India's 52nd Independence Day, India joined China in the exclusive one billion club.

The government's projections estimate that the one billion mark will be reached in May 2000. The socio-economic implications will, however, be the same.

There are only four countries in the world that have a population exceeding that of Uttar Pradesh's 156.95 million. India adds roughly about 18 million, the population of Australia, every year. Foodgrain production is expected to be the highest ever at 202 million tonnes, enough at current consumption levels. But who knows whether it will be enough if population continues to increase at current rate?

The annual population growth has fallen below two per cent since 1994. And the average number of children per family has also fallen from 4.5 in the 1980s to 3.6 in the 1990s.

Our resources seem to be depleting rapidly under pressure from the burgeoning population. Forest cover is down to 19 per cent, from over 22 per cent in 1988. Deteriorating water tables and food crop yields add to the bleak scenario. The average crop land per person has shrunk by half to 0.10 hectare per person in 1999, as against 0.21 hectare in 1960. The average farm-size has shrunk to 1.6 hectare, reducing by more than 40 per cent in the last three decades.

Pakistan during secretary-level talks in 1998

Agni-I should be deployed along with warheads : Experts

THE Agni-I should be operationalised and deployed along with its warhead and clearly defined command and control structure in the wake of the announcement of the draft minimum nuclear deterrent policy by the government, say military experts.

This was necessary because the range of Agni-I and the yield of its warhead would only be credible when it was seen to exist.

Pakistan used its "first strike" policy to prevent India from exercising options like crossing the line of control to relieve pressure caused by Pakistani troops disguised as militants in the Drass-Kargil sector, or to liberate Pak-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and remove the thorn in India's side that has existed since 1948, or to attack Pakistan across the International Border for its perfidious behaviour in Jammu & Kashmir.

The threat of the "first strike" was ominously real. Even though India had aircraft and the Prithvi missile as delivery systems for its nuclear warheads, these were no deterrent for the kind of action Pakistan launched in Kargil. This was because India's Agni-I, though tested successfully, was officially only a

"technology demonstration", whereas Pakistan has in the M-9 missile a proven operational missile with the warheads in its basement also based on proven designs.

That is why, with a tested range of 2000 km which brings the whole of Pakistan well within its range, the "credibility" of the deterrent effect of the Agni-I becomes obvious if it is operationalised immediately.

INDIA-PAKISTAN

Pakistani spy plane downed

THE downing of *Atlantique*, a Pakistani maritime surveillance and naval anti-submarine aircraft, by a MiG-21 aircraft, of the Indian Air Force, on August 10, 1999, further escalated tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad. All 15 crew members on board the Pakistani plane died.

The Pakistani reconnaissance aircraft was shot down for "intruding into air space" and "hostile behaviour" over marshy land of Kori creek near Gujarat coast.

Countering the Indian allegation that the aircraft was on a spying mission, Pakistan insisted that the plane was on a routine training mission and well within Pakistani airspace when it was shot down. Much of the debris from the downed plane has been found inside Pakistani territory.

The aircraft was a French-made. It has a huge weapon bay, and the most potent weapons it can carry are two Exocet and AM 39 missiles—these missiles can sink a ship from a distance of 100 km.

The next day, an IAF helicopter carrying a media team to the site of *Atlantique* wreckage was fired upon by Pakistan gunners, further heightening tension in the region. India then rushed a large number of troops, including marine and army commandos, into the Rann of Kutch area to bolster the Border Security Force (BSF). The Indian Navy and Airforce were also put on high alert.

Airforce officials believe that the intrusion by Pakistani *Atlantique* aircraft was part of Pakistan gameplan to survey the Rann of Kutch area in order to find out which of the tidal creeks were navigable enough to create a "Kargil-at-sea" like situation.

In its efforts to help contain post-Kargil tensions, US has advised India and Pakistan to honour their 1991 agreement which forbids any military aircraft to fly nearer than 10 km of India-Pakistan border without advance notification to the other country.

The 1991 agreement also stipulates that in event of a violation, a prompt alert is to be sent through diplomatic channels to the headquarters of other country's airforce.

RAILWAYS

Gaisal disaster exposes rot

THE Gaisal rail accident exposed the rot in Indian Railways. It stands exposed today as one of the world's most backward and inefficient railways. Burdened with a gigantic (16 lakh) labour force, its lack of care

Do You Know...

A Brilliant Sun is a one-hour biographical film on the late Aditya Vikram Birla that was premiered in Mumbai on August 18, 1999. It re-lived part of a remarkable chapter of the history of industrial India and provided footage of the man and his family..

Black money accounts for 20 per cent of GDP

While India reports a nearly 6 per cent growth in the economy, its underground economy, or black economy, also seems to be thriving. A study titled India Development Report, 1999-2000, by the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), estimates that India's black economy is around 18 to 21 per cent of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

As India's GDP is now estimated at Rs 17,70,000 crore, the unaccounted money circulating in the system works out to a whopping Rs 3,54,000 crore.

However, tax evasion accounts for only part of the black economy. The IGIDR study says black income is generated from illegal activities that are harmful to society, such as smuggling, trafficking in illicit drugs, pornography and gambling. But there are other apparently harmless illegal activities too such as "moonlighting", i.e. private tuition by salaried teachers and private practices by publicly employed doctors.

The prevalence of black economy implies that some transactions such as those in the property market are made in black money.

Since black income has to be spent in an unaccounted fashion, it leads to further tax evasion. For example, black income used to purchase expensive durable goods such as television and refrigerator also involves evasion of sales taxes.

Black income is mostly invested in activities which tend to be less productive, such as purchase of gold and property, with the hope of making capital gains.

It is also possible that black investment made from black money is more productive than white investment, leading to a relatively larger multiplier effect. Several studies justify this assumption, based on low returns in the white sector, due to government controls on bank deposit rates and the process of administering interest rates. Even if returns from black investment go unrecorded in national accounts, they may trickle down to improve the overall level of living in the country. If such is the case, then black economy may be a good thing.

While amnesty scheme generally add to current revenue, they can also have implications in terms of future revenue generation, future tax base and tax payer behaviour.

Expectation of a future amnesty scheme leads to continued tax evasion. These schemes are perceived as being unfair to honest tax payers, who bear relatively greater tax burden. By allowing tax evaders to evaluate their assets at prices prevailing several years ago, such schemes help the beneficiaries effectively to pay much more lower tax than applicable.

If the growth of the black income is considered to be the same as the white economy, topping even 10 per cent of it, through better tax compliance, can fetch the government two per cent of the GDP—enough to reduce fiscal deficit to 4 per cent of GDP, from 6 per cent.

to follow even the most basic safety procedures stand exposed. This is all the more surprising since every procedure in the maintenance and operations of the railways is codified.

Three safety review committees have been set up over the past 52 years and the fourth is about to come out with its report.

A lackadaisical attitude to work prevails in the railways. Engines leave their destination with defective brakes and weak lights. The vestibule connections between coaches are often wobbly and threaten to collapse. Doors

don't shut, and the tracks are cracked at many places.

The problem begins at the stage of selecting equipment. The Lucknow-based Research, Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) does not have the equipment required for testing most of the modern signalling and other equipment that makes a difference between life and death.

Inspectors who visit the factory of the suppliers are easily influenced by them through nefarious means. Once cleared by RDSO, only random samples are checked for flaws leaving most of the installed equipment suspect.

RESERVATION**Quotas for higher courses struck down**

The Supreme Court has placed national interest above social and other interests in ruling that the special provisions like reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes or Other Backward Classes (OBCs) were not permissible in admissions to super speciality courses in medicine and engineering.

Merit alone can be the basis of selection according to the court. The verdict would be effective prospectively.

The court struck down the Uttar Pradesh Post Graduate Medical Education (Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) Act 1997, which reduced the minimum qualifying marks from 35 per cent to 70 per cent for reserved category candidates for admission to post-graduate medical courses.

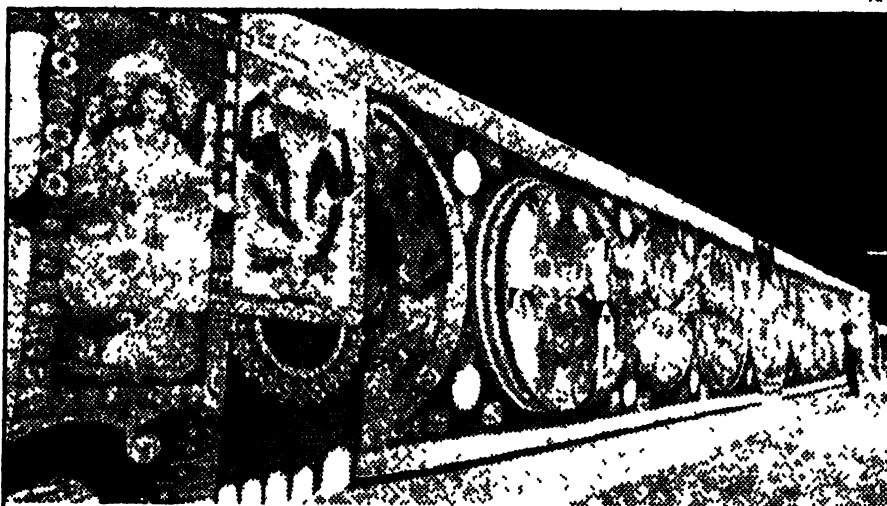
It also struck down the Madhya Pradesh government order of June 7, 1997, prescribing minimum qualifying marks for reserved category—SCs (20 per cent), STs (15 per cent) and OBCs (40 per cent). The court even disapproved of the disparity in qualifying marks for the general and reserved category.

According to experts, the judgement is a reiteration of what had been held in the Mandal report and several other significant pronouncements. Yet, the need was felt for another pronouncement on the issue because certain State governments, for reasons best known to them, chose to misread the constitutional provisions under Article 15(4), which provides reservation to the other backward classes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

Through an amendment, Article 15(4) was included in the Constitution to facilitate the States to make special provision for enhancement of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes. Due to this amendment, the States

Do You Know...

Software exports, which were just Rs 675 crore in 1992-93, have zoomed to Rs 10,490 crore in 1998-99. The previous year's figure was Rs 6,530 crore.



INDIAN PAINTING-RECORD—A silk painting 100 feet (33 metres) long, 11 feet (3.5 metres) high and weighing only 5.5 pounds (2.5 kilograms) on display in Calcutta on 25 August 1999. The painting by Sanat Chatterjee, depicting Indian mythology and its relation with science, took 15 months to complete and is mentioned by the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest silk painting in the world.

have been able to introduce a large number of programmes for the backward classes and such other sections of the society who, the Constitution-makers felt, require special case for their upliftment.

That the special provision would be extended to the highest level of specialised jobs was perhaps never anticipated by the founding fathers of the Constitution.

ELECTIONS**Sikkim electoral rolls on CD-Rom**

THE Himalayan State of Sikkim has put its electoral rolls and constituency profiles on a CD-rom. Developed by the State unit of the National Informatics Centre (NIC), the easy-to-navigate, map-based auto-run compact disc would quickly provide poll-related information to the user.

Monitoring of the State's election process, from the time ballot boxes are distributed till they return to the counting centre after polling, will be done by the IT software.

Meanwhile, the simultaneous elections on October 3, would witness the use of the same ballot box for both assembly and Lok Sabha segments, different from the practice of having two ballot boxes.

This will rule out any confusion among the voters, especially from rural areas, on the use of the ballot boxes.

Another significant feature of the poles in Sikkim is the use of ballot paper of three different colours for assembly, Lok Sabha and Sangha assembly elections.

Sikkim has a unique "Sangha" (religion) assembly constituency with no geographical boundaries, for which Buddhist monks of different monasteries are voters.

Regional parties thrive

FROM token opponents of "big brother" national parties to true representatives of regional aspirations, small or regional parties are emerging as kingmakers, wooed by big players on either side of the political divide.

Holding among them 123 seats in the 12th Lok Sabha or almost 24 per cent of popular vote share, regional parties are endorsing federalism in the real sense as they forge strategic poll alliances without compromising their ideologies or letting the national parties storm their strongholds.

In the run up to the 13th general elections, the small regional parties have formed pre-poll alliances and hammered out seat-sharing formulae with the BJP or the Congress in several States.

Besides a score of small parties that are part of the National Democratic Alliance spearheaded by the BJP, several other have held on their own for the ensuing elections.

These include the J & K People's Democratic Party in Kashmir, Nagaland People's Council and the Nationalist Democratic Movement in Nagaland.

In the 1998 elections, 36 regional parties contested 392 seats and won 123 seats in the 545-member House.

In 1996, the top 12 regional parties held 86 seats, which was exactly double of their strength in the 10th Lok Sabha and more than thrice their numbers in 1989.

Observers attribute the rise of regional parties to the failure of national parties in fulfilling regional aspirations.

Cost goes up by 8000 per cent

THE cost of preserving democracy through ballots will go up by 8000 per cent, since 1967, as the current elections will entail an expenditure of Rs 900 crore.

Polls of 1990s (excluding 1999) cost Rs 1500 crore against Rs 330 crore in the previous two decades.

Though the elections in 1967 cost less than Rs 11 crore, 1998 general election's cost shot up to over Rs 625 crore.

There was a marked rise of 700 per cent in the election costs in a period of 17 years, from Rs 11 crore in the 1967 elections to Rs 82 crore in the Eighth Lok Sabha polls in 1984.

The last four Lok Sabha polls saw manifold increase in the amount spent. In the 1989 Lok Sabha poll, the cost doubled to Rs 154 crore from Rs 82 crore. It further rose to Rs 359 crore in 1991, Rs 597 crore in 1996 and Rs 626 crore in 1998.

One effective medium to cut on cost is the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM). EVMs, apart from being temper proof, have the advantage of doing away with invalid votes. Though EVMs were first introduced in 1983 elections in Karnataka

and Andhra Pradesh, on an experimental basis, it took a long time to make it feasible as rules had to be framed following Supreme Court order on use of EVMs.

Once this hurdle was overcome, a new issue cropped up as large number of nominations were filed in the 1991 elections, further delaying the switch to the Electronic Voting Machine.

While the voting machines could accommodate only candidatures of 64 per cent, several constituencies during the previous elections saw a large number of nominations, with the highest being 1,300 in a constituency in Tamil Nadu.

The Election Commission then decided to hike the nomination fee from Rs 500 to Rs 10,000 to "weed out non-serious candidates" from filing nominations.

The initial cost of an Electronic Voting Machine is around Rs 5,000, as against Rs 800 for a ballot box. The cost of ballot papers, printing and other paraphernalia, however, totals to a huge amount in manual system of voting.

Computerisation of voters' list and introduction of CD-ROMs for verifying the voters' list will also help in cutting costs further in coming years.

COMMISSIONS

Wadhwa Commission report

THE Wadhwa Commission of Inquiry, that probed the killings of Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two sons at Manoharpur village in Orissa, has essentially blamed prime suspect Dara Singh and his supporters for the ghastly crime that shook the nation on January 22, 1999.

Justice D.P. Wadhwa, a serving judge of the Supreme Court, who was appointed a one-man Commission of Inquiry into the Staines murder, says in 246-page report that "there is no evidence that any authority or organisation was behind these gruesome killings".

Significantly, the Commission has strongly criticised the State police for its inept investigation.

The Commission has recommended "an independent inquiry to find out the circumstances leading to the recording of the FIR, the arrest of innocent persons and how they are to be compensated for their

illegal detention.

Justice Wadhwa has recommended that the National Foundation for Communal Harmony be made into a statutory authority on the lines of the National Human Rights Commission "to bring in communal harmony".

Criticising the visits of VIPs to the place of crime as they hampered the investigations, the commission has recommended that such visits be drastically curtailed. The report also calls upon the government to sensitise the bureaucracy over the plight of the tribals and refrain from unwarranted transfer of officials.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Mercenaries from 14 nations involved in proxy war

ACCORDING to a publication titled "Proxy War", circulated by the Northern Command Headquarters of Indian Army, mercenaries from 14 countries are involved in the 10-year-long proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir, being abetted by Pakistan. Between 1990 and December 1998, 1073 mercenaries of 13 countries have been killed and 136 others arrested.

The mercenaries belong to Afghanistan, Bahrain, Burma, Bangladesh, Chechnya, Iraq, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey and Yemen.

The maximum number of mercenaries killed during the period (400) belonged to Pakistan, followed by Afghanistan (190) and PoK (48).

The report said the idea to annex Kashmir through a proxy war was first conceived by Pakistani President General Zia-ul-Haq in 1977 under Operation Topac.

Under the plan, a three-pronged strategy was launched to initiate low-level insurgency and subvert the police, financial institutions and communication network and follow this by exerting direct pressure along the Line of Control by large-scale sabotage, infiltration of mercenaries and special forces to attack vital targets.

Religion was meant to be used in a manner to influence some sections of people at an appropriate time under the operation, it said.

Do You Know...

The top five foreign investors, on the basis of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approvals between 1991 to December, 1998, are: USA, Mauritius, UK, Japan and Germany. USA headed the list with proposals of Rs 426,093 million, followed by Mauritius with Rs 183,953 million. UK and Japan followed with approvals worth Rs 130,137 crore and Rs 75,130 million respectively.

Short Notes on International News

MIDDLE EAST

Israel, Palestine okay revised peace deal

presence of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, US Secretary of State Madeline Albright and King Abdullah II of Jordan.

The new accord is the revised version of the Wye River accord.

The agreement calls for further Israeli troop withdrawals from the West Bank and the release of hundreds of prisoners in return for Palestinian guarantees of security.

Under the new deal, which is backed by a US letter of guarantee to the Palestinians, Israel will cede control of further 11 per cent of the West Bank,

conclude them in a year, a timeline analysts consider to be too optimistic.

The deal has already run into criticism from both Palestinian and Israel's hardline wing.

INDONESIA

East Timor votes for independence

IN a referendum held on August 30, 1999, under the United Nations Assistance Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) more than 78 per cent people voted for independence and rejected the other option of autonomy within Indonesia.

The turnout for voting was impressive, despite intimidation by pro-Indonesia militia which wanted East Timor to remain as the 27th province of Indonesia.

The vote came 23 years after Indonesia invaded and took over the territory after the former colonial master, Portugal, abandoned it.

The result was followed by wide-scale violence in the capital city of Dilli. The Indonesian military openly joined the pro-Indonesia militia in what appeared to be a campaign to force thousands of people to flee the territory. There were reports of Indonesian soldiers and militiamen marching screaming refugees at gunpoint and herding them onto trucks to drive them out of East Timor.

Following the situation going completely out of control, Indonesia declared martial law on September 7, 1999. However, the action was taken when the capital city had already become a ghost town, whose inhabitants had either fled or were fleeing.

According to President Habibie of Indonesia martial law was required to be imposed to bring some semblance of peace to the region so that the control could be transferred to the UN.

The UN, on its part, said that it will intervene if the situation worsens. At present, the international community is hoping that Jakarta will be able to normalise the situation.

CIS-CHINA

Focus on global issues

RUSSIAN President, Boris Yeltsin met his Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin and other leaders, in the Kyrgyz capital of



From Left to Right: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and US Secretary of State Mrs M. Albright at the peace accord signing ceremony

ON September 6, 1996, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak signed a watershed accord to revive the peace process and pave the way for talks on a final settlement.

The accord was signed at the Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt, in

giving Palestinians a total of 40 per cent.

Both sides also agreed not to commit "unilateral actions or take measures which could change the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip".

The two sides have also agreed to resume stalled negotiations on the permanent status of the Palestinian territories—covering the complex questions of the status of Jerusalem, water rights, refugees, Jewish settlements and final borders. Besides, construction of a new Port at Gaza will begin on October 1, 1999 and on the same day a route will be opened to allow the Palestinians to travel across Israel between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Barak said that the negotiations on the final settlement should begin in five months and hoped to

Do You Know...

Coca Cola defended itself in Europe as people had fallen ill after consuming its products in France and Belgium. It had to make the largest product recall in its history and blamed defective carbon dioxide and fungicide for the trouble. The European Commission criticised Coca Cola's explanation.

Bishkek, to assert more eastward-looking Russian policy.

The Bishkek summit was the fourth gathering of the "Shanghai Five"—Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan—so-called because they first met in 1996 in Shanghai, China, to resolve post-Soviet border and regional security issues.

Considerable progress has been made in reducing military forces and demarcating the 7000 km border China shares with the former USSR, though Moscow and Beijing still dispute ownership of a few islands in the Amur river.

In 1998, the five agreed to take common steps to fight threats to regional stability, including ethnic and religious extremism. Guerrillas infiltrating from Afghanistan have kept Tajikistan in a state of constant civil war, and armed Islamic extremists from the minority Uigur tribe have been active in Kyrgyzstan.

Mr Yeltsin and his Chinese counterpart concentrated on global politics. The communique of their meeting was a thinly veiled attack on hegemonic policies of the United States and NATO and an appeal for a more open world order.

Moscow is also feeling out possibilities for building a broader security alliance in the east, perhaps including China and India, as a counter balance to a more assertive and expansionist NATO in the West.

TURKEY

Worst earthquake disaster

A little less than a week after a devastating earthquake struck Turkey

Do You Know...

The expenditure on the Lok Sabha elections has been increasing steadily over the years. It was just Rs 1.79 crore in 1967 but in the 1998 elections, the country spent Rs 666.22 crore. From 1980 to 1998, the expenditure increased more than 10 times, from Rs 54.77 crore. The 1999 election is expected to cost the nation about Rs 800 crore.

Economic News

US world's leading arms dealer

According to the annual report released by Congressional Research Service, the US has once again emerged as the world's leading arms dealer.

According to the report, 'Conventional Arms Transfers to Developing Nations, 1991-1998', the US sold \$ 7.1 billion in weapons around the globe, a figure almost 30 per cent higher than its nearest competitor, Germany. US sales to the developing nations accounted for \$ 4.6 billion of the total figure, or 65 per cent. US arms sales accounted for 31 per cent of the world total.

The Council for a Livable World Education Fund cautions that the \$ 7.1 billion in US sales agreements represents only arms deals brokered by the Pentagon.

Sales approved by the State Department are not included in the CRS report because the State Department does not track licences that result in actual sales. With over \$ 26 billion in sales licences issued in 1998, the resulting exports could potentially add more billions, giving the US an even larger share of the world market.

Mr Tom Cardamone, director of the Council Education Funds' Conventional Arms Transfer Project, pointed to the high value of sales to the developing countries and admonished the Republican-led Congress for not doing more to restrict arms sales to the poor nations.

The Congress has the power to vote to block arms sale, but it has never done so.

Other major arms dealers in 1998 included Germany (\$ 5.6 billion), France (\$ 3 billion), Russia (\$ 1.7 billion), and the UK (\$ 1.2 billion).

on August 17, 1999, more than 10,000 bodies were recovered, but a United Nations relief official estimated that the death toll could go as high as 40,000.

The quake jolted six provinces in Turkey's densely-populated and industrial northwest which has many urban centres.

The epicentre of the quake was near the industrial city of Izmit, where maximum people were killed, most of them trapped inside huge apartment buildings that crumbled within seconds.

In the aftermath of quake, Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit fired the governors of Yalova, Kocaeli and Sakarya, three of the hardest-hit provinces. He said that they had proved unable to meet the challenges posed by the disaster.

EUROPE

Seeks military independence from US

EUROPEAN nations, alarmed by the clear demonstration of US military superiority—first in the Gulf war and then against Yugoslavia—have called for a bigger effort in search of an "autonomous European defence".

Several European countries have expressed concern about Europe's inability to carry out any sustained military action without technical and

logistic support from USA.

Foreign and defence ministers of the 15-nation European Union (EU) have time until the end of the year to draft recommendations on Europe's "capability for autonomous action backed by credible military forces". "To rely only on America's intelligence and analysis opens the door to possible political manipulation".

The Europeans are also complaining that during the Yugoslav war, the US shared its intelligence information on the opponent on a highly selective basis.

Separate conclusions reached by experts in France, Germany and Italy call for unifying segments of various national industries as one way to help speed up Europe's "military independence".

RUSSIA

New separatist trouble in Dagestan

IN early August, separatist rebels in the mountainous republic of Dagestan in the Northern Caucasus region of the Russian Federation seized several areas of the region and declared an independent Islamic Republic of Dagestan.

The Shura of Dagestan, an Islamic council, which is not recognized by Moscow, signed the independence

declaration.

The separatists crossed over from the neighbouring republic of Chechnya and were led by rebel leader Shanil Basayur and others who have long fought Russian control raising the banner of Islam.

Chechnya had in 1994-96 witnessed a similar conflict that ultimately led to a war with Russia, followed by an agreement that gave Chechnya greater autonomy. The separatist fire that was ignited in Chechnya has now spread to Dagestan.

The insurgents are thought to be members of the Wahhabi sect seeking to bring Dagestan under Islamic law. A large number of Pakistanis are said to be assisting the rebels.

Moscow reacted to the rebellion by sending in Russian forces to bomb the rebels in the mountains of Dagestan and in the area of Chechnya that are believed to be hideouts of the separatists.

This led to hundreds of casualties and set off streams of refugees from the trouble-torn villages in Dagestan and Chechnya.

Given the nature of the territory, the rebels' determination, the ethnic and communal divide, the seriousness of economic problems, the breakdown of law and order, and possibility of support from Islamic mercenaries, a large-scale war is a distinct possibility.

The experts, however, warn that, no matter how the military operation turns out, Russia is repeating mistakes it has been making in the region for 200 years.

By doing so, it risks a protracted cycle of turmoil in the non-Russian, non-Orthodox Christian Republics of the North Caucasus. This would ultimately

Do You Know...

There were 43 women members in the 12th Lok Sabha in 1998. This constituted 7.9%, the second highest proportion. The highest number of women were in the Eighth Lok Sabha (1984) when 44 women members were elected, constituting 8.1% of the total.

Water scarcity may reduce food supply

Increasing water shortage in many countries, including India, is threatening to reduce the global food supply by more than 10 per cent, says the study by Washington-based World-watch Institute. Left unaddressed, the shortage could lead to hunger, civil unrest and even wars over water.

Irrigation problems are wide-spread in the grain-growing regions of central and northern China, northwest and southern India, parts of Pakistan, much of the western U.S.A., North Africa, the West Asia and the Arabian peninsula.

Though about 40 per cent of the world's food comes from irrigated crop land, "the productivity of irrigation is in jeopardy from the overpumping of ground water, the growing diversion of irrigation water to cities and build up of salts in the soil.

Water tables are dropping steadily in several major food-producing regions as groundwater is pumped faster than nature can replenish.

So much water is being diverted for irrigation and other human uses that major rivers like the Yellow in China, the Indus in Pakistan, the Ganga in India and the Colorado in USA, run dry for large portions of the year.

The institute also blames rapidly growing world population as the main reason behind the water shortage.

The number of people living in water-stressed countries is projected to climb from 470 million to 3 billion by 2025.

With increase in population, the tension between water-sharing nations are bound to increase as in many parts of the globe no water-sharing agreement exists between sharing nations.

To meet the future crisis the institute has proposed a "blue revolution" that would help boost water productivity, just as raising land productivity helped meet food needs during the last half of this century.

Describing strategies of the "blue revolution", a scientist says farmers in India, Israel, Jordan, Spain and the U.S.A. have shown that drip irrigation systems that delivers water directly to the crop roots can cut water use by 30 to 70 per cent and raise crop yields by 20 to 90 per cent.

lead to death of Russia's patchwork federalism.

Dagestan, unlike Chechnya, signed the Federal treaty that made it part of the Russian Federation in 1992. In earlier presidential and parliamentary elections, the people of Dagestan had voted against Yeltsin and his supporters.

Most of the region is culturally Islamic though like many mountain lands it is ethnically diverse.

With the Soviet order gone and new Russian State incapable of addressing the growing economic malaise, or forging a common identity with its peoples, the region is now a powder keg.

AFGHANISTAN

UN Security Council condemns Taliban

UN Security Council members have condemned Afghanistan's Islamist Taliban movement for launching a new

military offensive, and have demanded an immediate halt to all offensive otherwise economic sanctions will be imposed.

Security Council President Martin Andjaba of Namibia urged the Taliban to resume political negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations, in line with commitments made at inconclusive talks held at Tashkent, the Uzbek capital.

The Taliban, which controls most of Afghanistan, began a major offensive against Opposition's northern alliance led by Ahmed Shah Masood in July, 1999, which led to the massive exodus of civilian population from the Panjsher valley, which is still in control of anti-Taliban forces.

While Taliban's opponents accuse it of being backed by Pakistan, Taliban accuses Iran, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan of aiding the opposition alliance.

Without naming any country, the UN

Council expressed concern at "reports of massive foreign military assistance in support of the latest attacks" and called for an immediate end to all external interference.

The Council, which has little direct leverage on the situation in Afghanistan, and whose UN seat is still held by the anti-Taliban alliance, also condemned acts of violence against civilians and demanded that the Taliban respect human rights.

Later, Pakistan strongly denied any involvement in the Afghan civil war, but admitted that some of its volunteers may be there fighting on behalf of Taliban.

India warned the Security Council that the territories in Afghanistan occupied through military force by the Taliban have become a breeding ground for international terrorism.

Without naming any country, India's permanent representative to the UN, Kamlesh Sharma, told the Council that international terrorist groups find a safe haven in Afghanistan and the areas straddling its southern borders.

HUMAN RIGHTS

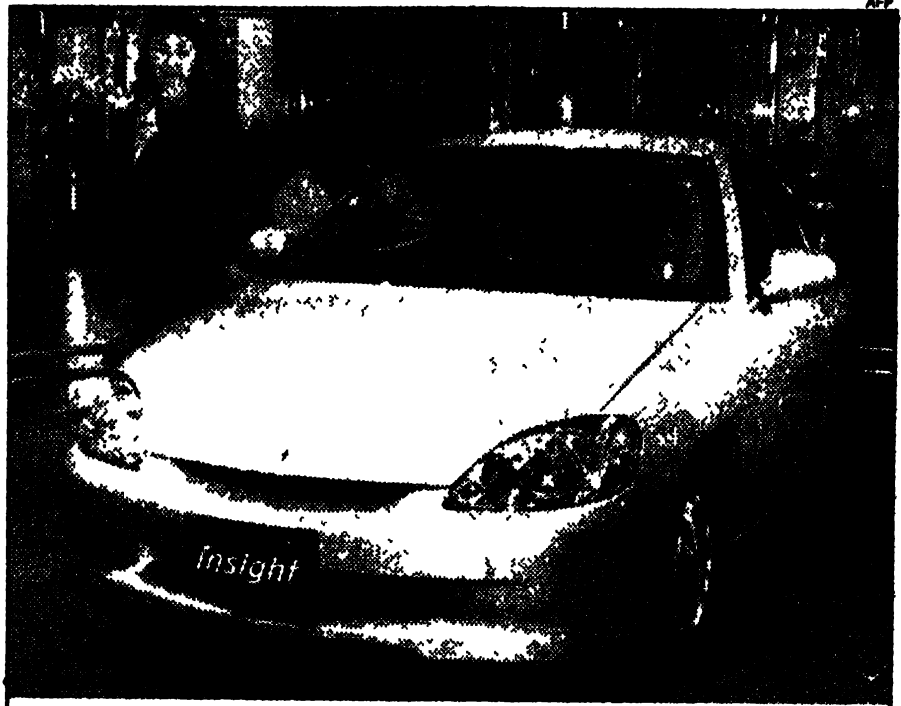
Mass graves found in Bangladesh

MORE proof of large-scale massacre of Bangladeshis by Pakistan Army during the 1971 liberation war have been found with Bangladeshi troops digging out human remains and armament bearing Pakistani inscription from a newly discovered mass graves in suburbs of Dhaka.

Workers involved in extension of Noori mosque in the Mirpur area discovered the graves on July 31, 1999, 28 years after war of Independence against Pakistan, provoking a public

Do You Know...

The satellite phone network, Iridium filed for bankruptcy protection and began talks on restructuring its debt into equity. The network has been struggling since it was launched as it was not able to get as many customers as it had projected.



New hybrid vehicle *Insight* at the headquarters of Honda in Tokyo. The aluminium-bodied *Insight* is equipped with the new ultra-low fuel consumption 1.0 litre gasoline/electric hybrid engine that achieves the world's lowest fuel consumption of 35 km per litre. The car will be put on the domestic market from November 1, 1999 and will cost US \$ 19,000.

outcry

Using mine detectors, the army personnel and government workers recovered heavy machine guns and other relics like bullets with inscriptions reading POF (Pakistan Ordnance Factory) and year of manufacturing, 1964-66. Parts of weapons used by Bangladeshi freedom fighters were also recovered.

PAKISTAN

Thousands take to street to protest against Sharief regime

ON September 2, 1999, tens of thousands of Opposition followers marched in Central Lahore, calling on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharief to step down.

In the first of the three protests, traditional Opposition parties and hardline Islamic groups joined forces in one of the biggest demonstrations since Sharief's election in 1997.

The rally was basically in protest against withdrawal of guerillas from the strategic Kargil heights in the Kashmir region, under world

pressure

Islamic groups have accused Sharief of a U-turn on a key policy on Kashmir by the past governments and betrayal of Muslim Militia groups waging guerilla war in Kashmir.

ARMS RACE

Disarmament talks end in deadlock

THE final session of 1999 of the 66-nation Conference on Disarmament (CD) ended in a deadlock in Geneva, on September 7, 1999, with no sign of progress on nuclear arms control negotiations.

The world's main multilateral disarmament forum failed to break the impasse as the five recognised nuclear weapons States remained inflexible in their positions.

The CD is bogged down in demands by some countries, including India, for comprehensive nuclear disarmament within a definite time-frame. The five nuclear powers—the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia—are insisting on a step-by-step approach.

Current General Knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

CBFC: Central Board of Film Certification
FLAG: Fibre Optic Link Around the Globe
KALI: Kiloampere Linear Injector
TRIPS: Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights

AWARDS

Arjuna Awards, 1999

Athletics: Neelam J. Singh, Rachita Mistry, Siri Chand and Paramjit Singh;
Body building: TV Pauly; **Boxing:** N.G. Dingko Singh; **Cricket:** Rahul Dravid and Nayan Mongia; **Hockey (women):** Pritam Rani and Omana Kumari;
Hockey (men): Surjit Singh (posthumous), Baljit Singh Dhillon, Mohammed Riaz, Baldev Singh and M.K. Kaushik;
Judo: Narendra Singh; **Kabaddi:** Ashan Kumar and Biswajit Palit; **Kho-Kho:** Shoba Narayana; **Physically handicapped:** Anju Dua and Ranjini Ramanujam; **Shooting:** Roopa Unnikrishnan and Manavjit Singh;
Swimming: Bhanu Sachdeva; **Table Tennis:** S. Raman; **Weightlifting:** Satish Rai; **Wrestling:** Kaka Pawar and Rohtas Singh Dahiya.

Dronacharya Award, 1999

Margobind Singh and Bahadur Singh (both athletics) and Gurbux Singh Sandhu (boxing).

Bravery Awards, 1999

Param Vir Chakra: Capt Vikram Batra, Grenadiers Yogendra Singh Yadav and Manoj Kumar Pandey, and Rifleman Sanjay Kumar have been honoured with the country's highest gallantry award.

Mahavir Chakra: Mahavir Chakra has been awarded to nine personnel, including six posthumously, for their heroic deeds during *Operation Vijay* in

Kargil. The awardees are: Major Vivek Gupta, Major Padmapani Acharya and Capt Neikezhakua Kenguruse of 2 Rajputana Rifles, Major Rajesh Singh Adhikari of the mechanised infantry of 18 Grenadiers, Capt Anuj Nayyar of 17 Jat, Lt Keishing Clifford Nongrum of 12 JAK Light Infantry (all posthumous) besides Major Sonam Wangchuk of Ladakh Scouts, Lt Balwan Singh of 18 Grenadiers and Naik Digendra Kumar of 2 Rajputana Rifles.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, 1999

Ace athlete Jyotirmoyee Sikdar has been given the 1999 award.

BOOKS

The Company of Women

The new novel by Khushwant Singh is a commentary on Indian society and hypocrisy and contains Singh's brazen views on sex.

The Greater Common Good

Arundhati Roy's well-researched essay on big dams lays forth some compelling arguments against the construction of big dams.

CYBERSPACE

Speeding up Internet Access

Many web surfers today spend more time staring at the status bar of their web browsers than at web pages themselves, because downloading pages takes longer.

It's no wonder that the acronym www has come to stand for "world wide wait". Delays inherent in surfing the web today don't just cost people time, but also money.

But help is on the way in some parts of the world. In the US, "broadband" access solutions such as cable modems and Asymmetrical

Digital Subscriber Lines (ADSL) are gaining popularity. Both increase Internet access by as much as 50 times over today's fastest analogue modems.

The introduction of abilene, or the "Internet 2", in the US promises a faster Internet. In Germany, the Berlin-based association "German Research Network" (DFN) inaugurated a gigabit trial connection as early as 1997. The transfer rate of broadband research network (B-Win) was about 80 terabytes per month at the beginning of 1999, but five years from now the transfer rates may increase to 8,000 terabytes per month.

How the Net was developed

In 1969, hardly anybody was paying attention to Len Kleinrock's laboratory at the University of California, Los Angeles. Only about 20 people watched as two bulky computers were connected by a 5-metre grey cable and bits of meaningless test data silently flowed between them.

The connection was the culmination of years of research by Kleinrock and others in the field of sharing information over a web of connected computers. Twenty-five years would pass before the Internet became a household word.

The UCLA team of graduate students in 1969 included future Internet leaders like Vinton Cerf, who later helped create the Internet's common language, and the late Jonathan Postel, who pioneered its address system.

The idea grew from the needs of the defence department's advance research projects agency, or ARPA, which was formed after the Soviet Union's 1957 launch of Sputnik, the first man-made satellite to orbit the Earth.

DEFENCE

Beam weapon for crippling missiles

The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, is in the final stages of assembling a powerful electron accelerating machine named *Kali-5000* which can potentially be used as a beam weapon.

Bursts of microwaves, packed with gigawatts of power (one gigawatt is 1000 million watts) produced by this machine, when aimed at enemy missiles and aircraft, will cripple their electronics systems and computer chips and bring them down.

According to scientists, "soft-killing" by high power microwaves has advantages over the so-called laser weapon which destroys by drilling holes through metal. *Kali-5000* is expected to be ready for testing by the end of 1999.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Telemanipulators to replace robots

Robot-controlled operations in nuclear installations will soon be made simpler, safer and faster by installing 'telemanipulators', located at remote locations.

Scientists from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) are jointly working on building a telemanipulator by fabricating a mobile platform from a radio-ethernet connected system based on the concept of 'telepresence'.

'Telepresence' is an extension of the concept of video conferencing, where the participants can control the view of the remote environment presented to them.

The remote operations involve assembling, dismantling and dextrous maintenance and could be effectively used to remotely pilot vehicles. The whole effort was to avoid cumbersome wires which are normally used in robotics. Transparency of operations is improved by incorporating several sensory signals like visual, audio, tactile and virtual reality stimulator.

Telepresence also finds application in various areas, including the creation of virtual laboratory, environments and classrooms thus allowing the people to explore remote (possibly hazardous) locations.

OIL

Oil struck in Rajasthan

Oil was struck near Barmer in Rajasthan on August 16, 1999. About 2,000 barrels of oil started flowing from the well drilled by a consortium of Shell India and Cairn Energy.

The discovery is in a new area called the Sanchor basin and is expected to make the entire basin in Rajasthan and Gujarat more attractive for further exploration.

This is the first find by a private international oil company under the system of offering blocks offered by the government.

India's first deep water discovery

Prospects of deep water oil exploration in India have brightened with the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) striking oil in a well in the Krishna-Godavari offshore area. This is the first deep-water find in the country. Oil exploration beyond a depth of 200 metres falls in the deep-water category. Indian deep waters are estimated to have huge oil reserves—eight billion tonnes. Of this, the Krishna-Godavari offshore alone is estimated to have three billion tonnes.

At present, India's own crude oil production can take care of only about one-third of the country's needs. The country spends Rs 25,000 crore to Rs 30,000 crore, or about one-sixth of its import bill, on oil imports every year. This has been the largest single component of the country's import bill. The only hope of improving the country's oil sufficiency lies in deep-water discoveries.

PERSONS

Sikdar, Jyotirmoyee

Athlete Jyotirmoyee Sikdar, the winner of Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for 1999, produced a grand display at the Bangkok Asian Games in December 1998 and had landed a golden double in the

800 m and 1500 m and a silver in the 4x400 m relay. She is the ninth person to receive the award.

PLACES

Bellary

The constituency in Karnataka which was the electoral battleground between Congress President Sonia Gandhi and BJP's Sushma Swaraj on September 5, 1999. It saw the highest-ever voter turnout: 69.78 per cent. The highest earlier was 67.5 per cent in 1967.

Turkey

The scene of a major earthquake, which struck on August 17, 1999, killing more than 40,000 people. International relief teams rushed in a rescue effort and tried to free thousands of people buried under rubble in north-west of the country. The tremor also set off a fire at the country's biggest oil refinery

PROJECTS

Largest tiger habitat to be created

The Ministry of Environment and Forests is planning to create the largest tiger habitat in the country, covering more than 5,000 square kilometres, in central India.

The mega tiger reserve is to be built by creating new tiger reserves and linking old ones. India has 60 per cent of the global tiger population. A recent decision of the government to declare Satpura Bori and Panchmarhi in Madhya Pradesh as tiger reserves would provide an important link between Melghat Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra and the Kanha Project Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, making this entire belt into a large tiger reserve.

Project Tiger, which was started in 1973, initially with nine project areas, now has 25 Project Tiger Reserves in the country with about 30,000 sq km under it. If India is to have about 4,000 tigers (at present there are about 3,500 of which 1,600 are within tiger reserves) then there should be at least 60,000 square kilometres under the Tiger Project.

RESEARCH

Wafer-thin solar cells

Solar cells that are thinner than a human hair and can be moulded to fit any surface have been created by American researchers.

The cells, developed at the University of Florida, can be produced far more cheaply than existing solar panels, which have to be made from wafers of expensive semiconducting materials.

Solar cells need large amounts of expensive semiconducting material, which is formed into wafers similar to those used to make computer chips. The panels are also heavy and difficult to move.

The new panels are made by placing an extremely thin film of a new material called copper indium diselenide (CIS) onto a base surface such as plastic or glass.

And now, E-paper

An American company is investing millions of dollars in a new writing material that might start chipping away at paper's supremacy. Electronic paper, known as e-paper, is described as a paper thin digital display sheet that you can fold up and fit in your pocket.

Invented by scientists at Xerox, the photocopier company, e-paper is a hybrid of computer hi-tech and ordinary paper. Not only can you crumple it, crease it and write on it, but the text can be revised and re-arranged like words on a laptop screen.

Using a "gyricon" sheet, a layer of transparent rubber as thin as a piece of paper, e-paper uses millions of small, randomly scattered beads—like toner particles—to create text and images.

The beads are able to switch quickly from white to black or dark blue, depending on which of the sides is facing upwards when electrical voltage is applied.

SPACE

The final days of Mir

The last Franco-Russian team of cosmonauts aboard Mir returned to

earth, bringing to an end the ageing Russian space station's 13 years of adventure.

Mir's achievements take pride of place in the history of Soviet space travel, second only to the great technological and diplomatic coup of making Yuri Gagarin the first man in space in 1961. The space station sent 103 people into orbit, including 62 foreigners. Russian Valeriy Poliakov holds the space endurance record, having spent 15 months on aboard Mir.

At an annual cost of \$ 250 million, the Mir station has now become an expensive luxury for cash-strapped Russia, which is also a key player in the planned International Space Station (ISS) which will cost \$ 300 million per year. A months long search for private funding has yielded nothing. Recent missions have been plagued by technical glitches as Mir's ageing technology and hardware become less reliable.

A team will spend a month on board from February 2000, their sole task to prepare to swing the space station out of its regular orbit. That team will return to earth in late March.

Mir will be taken out of its orbit at the end of April and will disintegrate upon re entry to the earth's atmosphere above the Pacific Ocean.

Century's last solar eclipse

The last solar eclipse of the 20th century swept towards the English mainland on August 11, 1999—but bad weather marred the early moments of one of nature's greatest spectacles.

The eclipse began when the shadow of the moon completely covered the sun off Canada's East Coast near Nova Scotia, and started a three hour long, 2 400 km an hour race across the Atlantic Ocean. Europe, the Middle East and the Indian sub-continent.

The eclipse ended when the sun set in the Bay of Bengal off India at about 1230 GMT, by which time an estimated two billion people had cautiously gazed skywards.

MISCELLANY

Smart cards are coming

India will soon be among the first countries to start using smart card-based payment applications. The operational and technical standards for implementing such a system have been finalised by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai, and Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), Hyderabad.

A smart card offers enormous flexibility and can be used for debit, credit or cash applications. The core of the card is a microprocessor or chip (which is also the core of the PC) which can store data and perform operations on it. In short, payment applications are only the tip of the iceberg—railway reservation, driving licence, medical information and host of other applications can be done using smart cards.

Smars or Smart Card Rupee System project was initiated on December 1996 by a core group comprising RBI, IDRBT and IIT, Mumbai, to test and define standards for smart card based payment applications. The project has 16 partners including three Indian companies—Aplab, CMS Computer, HCI—apart from multinational vendors like Verifone and Schlumberger.

ATM network planned

In January 2000, the Indian banking sector is set to witness a major revolution. *Suvidhan* or the Mumbai-based ATM network introduced by the Indian Banks Association (IBA) would be spread all over India with a combined network of more than 500 ATMs.

The "anywhere banking" concept, which is currently being practised by only a handful of first generation private sector banks and some foreign ones, would be available to all the banks registered with IBA.

According to the 'anywhere banking' concept, any bank customer can withdraw cash from any bank's ATM irrespective of whether the person is a customer of that particular bank or not. He can do so at all ATM sites spread throughout the country.

Sports

GAMES

Southeast Asian Games

Thailand were crowned champions of the 10th Southeast Asian Games held at Bandar Seri Begawan. Malaysia finished second and Indonesia third. The next games will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2001

CHESS

World Chess Championship

Grandmaster Alexander Khalifman of Russia became the 14th World Chess Champion beating grandmaster Vladimir Akopian of Armenia in the final. He became the third world champion from Russia, after Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov, in the last quarter century.

CRICKET

New Zealand-England Test Series

New Zealand beat England by 83 runs in the fourth Test at The Oval, claiming a 2-1 series victory. England lost their last 8 wickets for 39 in just 105 deliveries and 77 minutes. It was a big setback for Nasser Hussain in his first series as captain of England team.

CYCLE POLO

International Championship

The Indian team put up a stupendous show, winning the 2nd International Cycle Polo Championship held in Vancouver, Canada. Led by Shiv Kumar, the team won all the five league matches in the six-nation competition. India beat Scotland 10-4, Canada 8-3, Mexico 12-4, South Africa 11-4 and the US 11-5. The finals were played between India and USA.

FOOTBALL

Confederations Cup

Mexico beat Brazil 4-3 to win the Confederations Cup held in Mexico city.

Miguel Zepeda broke a second-half tie with his second goal to help Mexico claim the title.

GOLF

PGA Championship

Tiger Woods beat Sergio Garcia to win the 81st PGA Championship held at Medinah (Illinois). It was a most dramatic back-nine duel in the tournament history.

SHOOTING

Benerick trap invitation competition

Mansher Singh finished first in the Benerick trap invitation competition held at Lonato, Italy. Mansher went into the final at 190 out of 200, tying with two other Italian shooters, but won in the tie-shoot.

SWIMMING

Asia-Pacific Championships

Chinese Taipei were runaway winners at the 13th Asia-Pacific Swimming and Diving Championships held at New Delhi, with a collection of 46 gold, 51 silver and 39 bronze medals. Thailand was at the second place, with 21 gold, 9

silver and 13 bronze medals, while Hong Kong finished third. China and South Korea were fourth and fifth, respectively.

India won 4 gold, 18 silver and 26 bronze medals and was at the sixth place

TABLE TENNIS

World Table Tennis Championships

The Chinese team lifted the 45th World Table Tennis Championships held at Eindhoven (Netherlands) with all 5 gold and silver medals. Leu Guoliang became the new men's champion and Wang Nan the women's singles champion. She also took the doubles crown with Li Ju.

TENNIS

ATP Championships

Pete Sampras beat Patrick Rafter 7-6, (9-7), 6-3 in the ATP Championship held at Mason for his 60th tournament title. Sampras has won 22 consecutive matches and four tournaments, including the Queen's Cup and Wimbledon in the second longest streak of his career.

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Appointments Etc

APPOINTED, ELECTED ETC

S.R. Nathan: He has been appointed Singapore's sixth elected President.

Mike Moore: He has been appointed as the new Chief of the 134-member World Trade Organisation (WTO). He belongs to New Zealand.

S.K. Gupta: He has been appointed Chairman and Managing Director of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd (VSNL).

RESIGNED

Sergei Stepashin: Prime Minister of

Russia.

Dalit Ezhilmalai: Union Minister of State for Health.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

K. Tokev: Kazakhstan Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

DIED

Jai Krishna: former president of the International Association of Earthquake Engineering.

that claim four lives. 50 per cent voting is reported.

—East Timorese vote decisively for independence from Indonesia. But, arson, murder, chaos, flight and general mayhem threaten to devastate the world's newest nation.

—Top police official, 33-year-old AIG of Police (Welfare and Sports), Mr Umesh Chandra, is shot dead by Naxalites of the outlawed Peoples' War Group (PWG) at the busy Sanjiva Reddy crossroads in the heart of Hyderabad.

6—Israel and Palestine sign the landmark agreement for implementing the stalled Wye Accord, breathing life into the frozen Middle East peace process.

7—Indonesia declares martial law in East Timor after hundreds of people are killed and thousands force to flee following riots.

10—Indonesia says no to a UN force for peace keeping in East Timor region.

EVENTS

AUGUST

11—Pakistan fires a missile at an IAF helicopter carrying journalists to the site of the wreckage of the downed Pakistan Navy's Atlantique aircraft in the Runn of Kutch in Gujarat. The missile misses the helicopter.

—President K.R. Narayanan issues a notification for holding elections for 146 Lok Sabha seats on September 5, 1999.

17—A major earthquake strikes north-west Turkey, killing thousands of people.

—India unveils draft nuclear policy, which states that it will never be the first one to use nuclear weapons against any country and that the power of nuclear strike would be vested in the Prime Minister.

31—Big numbers of East Timorese defy threats and turn out to cast their ballots in a UN sponsored referendum.

—N. Maniekathasan, Vice President of PLOTE is killed in a bomb blast suspected to have been triggered off by the LTTE in the northern town of Vavunia in Sri Lanka.

3—Skirmishes continue between Indian and Pakistani troops along the LoC in Turtuk sector in J&K.

4—Three Lakshar-e-Toiba militants are killed as army commandos storm a government building in Handwara in north Kashmir to rescue two Intelligence Bureau and three BSF men taken hostage.

—Nine Indian soldiers are killed and 12 others injured in heavy Pakistani shelling on an Indian post along the Line of Control (LoC).

5—The first phase of polling in the Lok Sabha and assembly elections are held amid sporadic incidents of violence

Baichung Bhutia: The first Indian to play professional soccer league in England.

Steve Randall: Australian cricket umpire, who has been jailed for four years for 15 sexual assault charges against young girls. He was held guilty of fondling and molesting girls aged 10-12 years while he taught in a school in the Tasmania town of Burnie, between 1981 and 1982.

SEPTEMBER

2—A Roman Catholic priest is killed and another injured by a gang in Jamabani village in Orissa's Mayurbhanj district.

—India requests Pakistan to return six members of its patrol team which had gone missing since the night of August 29/30 in the Turtuk sector in J&K.

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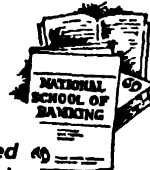


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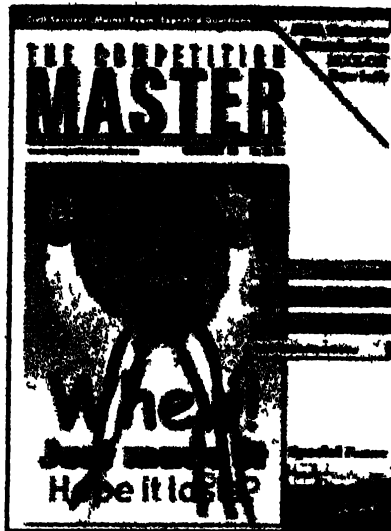
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The best two letters of the month appearing in the box, have been awarded a prize of Rs 100 00 each. Readers are invited to send us their views on topics covered in this issue. You can also e-mail your response to letters@competitionmaster.com. The decision of the Editor will be final.

KARGIL—AN ANALYSIS

Our soldiers deserve infinite salutations but it was disappointing to see politicians making Kargil an election issue. The war brought out the best and the worst in us.

*Ashim Kumar Kar
Rourkela, Orissa*

ARE BIG DAMS NECESSARY?

There has been a complete turnaround in Punjab and Haryana because of the Bhakra Dam. It also provides drinking water to a number of cities. Small dams are all right, but they cannot provide electricity or irrigation to large areas. And, they also displace people. So, in the larger interest of the nation, we can only ensure less painful displacement by giving maximum possible assistance and compensation.

*R Pandya
received via e-mail*

Dams are temples of modern India. They are necessary for irrigation. Technical people should come forward and explain their advantages. A layperson's arguments should not be accepted.

*B Ganesh, Anantapur
received via e-mail*

Tehri dam must be stopped for many reasons. As the river is changing course, there will be massive silting up. The life of the project would be reduced and it

will be able to produce less than half of the projected electricity. There will also have to be large-scale resettlement of the people. If past experience is to go by, this will be done in a half-hearted way.

*Dick Wechter
received via e-mail*

TRADITION AND MODERNITY

There has always been a conflict between tradition and modernity. Tradition paves way for modernity. Modernity should take the best out of tradition and simplify it further for the good of society. On the other hand, many wrongly believe that modernity means leaving aside tradition merely for the sake of modernity.

*Rimjhim Priyadarshini
Jamshedpur, Bihar*

Tradition is collective memory. Without memory, life loses its meaning. Tradition ensures the continuity of norms and values. It ensures one's identity. Modernity is change. Hence, both tradition and modernity are essential in life.

*Dipti Sahoo
Bhubaneswar, Orissa*

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The UNDP's Human Development Report points out

ARE DAMS NECESSARY?

Government agencies thrust development projects on the people without considering the needs of the local people. Thus, people have to make do with what others think is good for them. Development is not a one-time or esoteric activity. It must promote happiness and prosperity among the marginalised sections of society.

*Jitu Changmai
Jorhat, Assam*

SEPARATE ECONOMY FROM POLITICS

We have faced a general feeling of lethargy for the past few months and it now appears that things may be looking up. However, companies must not make the same mistake they did earlier, of over-estimating the middle class and riding on a feeling of over optimism. At the same time, there is urgent need to separate economy from politics so that the economy does not suffer on account of games played by politicians.

*Shekhar Acharya
Chennai*

many inequalities in the world. For example, it states that the world's 200 richest people have increased their income by \$ 602 billion in the last four years. This means they have been earning at the rate of \$ 500 per second. At the same time, more than 13 billion people do not have access to clean drinking water. Such inequalities do not augur well for the stability of the world system.

*Ankan Ghosh
Calcutta*

CM FEATURES

I am an engineer preparing for civil services. THE

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*Krishnamurthy V. Hegde
Belgaum, Karnataka*

I like reading THE COMPETITION MASTER. It helps me grow up into a better man. But I find one aspect missing. There should be a crossword puzzle to help students crack their brains. It will also help in improving our vocabulary.

*Saikat Roy
Asansol, West Bengal*

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(This sentence Originally appeared in our Advertisement in Competition Master, August issue, 1997)

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From the Desk of the

Editor



Dear Readers

India has just gone through another elections. Most people heaved a sigh of relief when the results came out—another hung Parliament or unstable government would have spelt disaster for the country. Hopefully, the new government will last out its full term and usher in stability that we need so much. The new government also must take up economic reforms in earnest so that growth can be achieved. We have been underachievers too long and need to shake off our lethargy.

Regular readers of THE COMPETITION MASTER would have noticed the changes in their favourite magazine. We have added more colour pages and pictures to make it more lively and interesting. Our effort is to constantly upgrade the magazine so that it serves the needs of the readers better. It is our hope that you find the layout more appealing. We are continuously evolving and look forward to hearing your comments.

Last year we pioneered the Mock-CAT test which students could do at home and send to us for evaluation. A large number of MBA aspirants had benefitted from the test, which gave them a good idea of their score. This year too we publish a similar paper. Do the test and get an evaluation, which will be priceless for your preparation.

With best wishes,

Editor

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Globalisation and Culture

"As the world enters the new millennium, there are many in India who fear that liberalisation will play havoc with our values. The unfettered linkage with the global market will lead to showmanship, gross consumerism and cheap exhibitionism, seeking always to be in the news as stars and superstars, emphasising the physical rather than the artistic and intellectual aspects, as a result of which concepts of beauty and aesthetics would be increasingly undermined." (B.P. Singh)

When the market goes too far in dominating social and political outcomes, the opportunities and rewards of globalisation spread unequally and inequitably—concentrating power and wealth in a select group of people, nations and corporations, not only marginalising the others but also affecting the cultural contours, vitality and vibrancy of many a nation-State that has fallen in line with the demands and dictates of those who set the rules and force compliance of market regulations. Colonialism may have spared the cultural heritage and instinctive inclinations of creative expressions in various cultural formats of the subject-States, but globalisation has neither such qualms nor considerations for those who take pride in the cultural survival of their art and architecture, literature and music, folklore and dances. Like a hydra-headed monster, globalisation is determined to debase and deform what is still left pure and pristine in the cultural passions and pursuits of the developing world.

The present process of globalisation, unless properly moderated, can lead to various forms of cultural oppression, discrimination, exploitation and an undesirable standardisation of cultures that mis-

takes unity for homogeneity. There is also an increasing tendency to treat culture as something dead, a pure museum piece, to be reduced to certain quantifiable elements so that it becomes manageable or to commodify culture in the form of saleable artefacts. As the ideologies of the open and free market society celebrate the triumph of free speech and of knowledge, more and more parts of culture become scarcer day by day. With the gradual erosion of diversity, reality is getting digitalised and all languages are under threat from the common technocratic jargon propagated by the international capital networks. The realm of culture is being torn between the tendencies of globalisation and localisation.

The impact of the process of globalisation on indigenous cultures is one of the major intellectual and practical concerns of our time. If the idea of *internationalism* envisages peaceful co-existence of all nations and cultures without risking their identity and sovereignty, globalisation tends to 'standardise' culture and taste, discourages diversity and cultural pluralism or cultural continuity. Instead of looking at the world as a creative space, showing respect to all languages and using media to promote appreciation of all other cultures, globalisation is based on the domination of one country and one culture over others, and is more of a command from above, a monologue of power than a dialogue of understanding and love. Exporting a lifestyle, homogeneity and standardisation of food, dresscodes, behavioural norms and patterns of daily life are accepted as natural and necessary by the 'god globalisers'. The world is a consumer chain for them and not a space of imagination, fanciful flights and creativity. While internationalism discov-

ers tradition to be a source of wisdom and creative concepts, globalisation turns it into a form of merchandise, just as ethnicity becomes a label that promotes export.

Willy-nilly under globalisation, imitation becomes norm not only in physical appearances but also in thought patterns and paradigms. A country like India, with its great tradition of philosophy, metaphysics, poetry, music, dance, sculpture, painting, architecture, linguistics and poetics, suddenly begins to parrot the West without even caring to look at the indigenous traditions. This loss of cultural memory is as detrimental to nations as the loss of genetic diversity is to nature—another area where globalisation has its negative impact.

If on the economic front the adverse effects of globalisation call for our conscious and deliberate intervention to produce an environment of ethics, equity, human security, sustainability and development, on the cultural college the struggle to survive the onslaught is going to be much more dogged and difficult. Such is the level of comfort among the 'haves' even in developing societies that their eyes and ears are closed to the writings on the wall, as far as the inimical incursions—rather intrusions—that are taking place all the time into the cultural consciousness of developing countries like India. Before the glitter of globalisation totally blinds and pushes us into Hades, the uncolonised intellectuals and academics ought to take up the cause of our languages, the real repositories of our thought, sensibility and culture. Under no circumstances should we allow our cultural canvas to be mired or mauled beyond recognition because it has contributed a lot to the evolution and enrichment of human civilisation over the centuries.

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Hitting Below the Belt!

When Aristotle said that the real purpose of democracy was not creation of a good State but the creation of a better kind of man, he was giving expression to a profound truth. However, judging from the campaigning that has gone into General Election '99, we are constrained to comment that the biggest democracy has failed to create a better kind of man (read politician). Democracy has become almost synonymous with *demoncracy*. The campaign was far removed from decency and decorum required in an open democracy which is the market-place of opposing ideas. Tolerance must go with it otherwise it turns into a fish market of putrid slogans, slander and scandals. As the Prime Minister, Mr A.B. Vajpayee observed: "They (Congress) go on slinging mud in the hope that some of it will stick".

We are deliberately not mentioning the "gems" flung

by the spokespersons of various political parties. Nor the smear and smirch utterances of politicians themselves. That would have been a remedy worse than the malady! But it cannot be blinked away that the campaigning, by and large, was marked by foul-play and flouting of rules of the democratic game. Values have been consigned to the dustbin of discarded ideas. Votes are the ruling deities. Any means to appease the latter are considered fair. Whosoever wins, democracy is the loser. Instead of becoming better, it becomes the battered "beauty" of bias, and low commitment.

Sadly, this battle of the ballot-box drifted appallingly from issues that have been facing the nation ever since the

dawn of independence. On the contrary, it focussed on ~~who~~ are they? Personalities replaced principles. Low-level politicking took the place of real politics. If it is the safari-suit clad, it is modern, sophisticated, forward-looking, eagerly leading you to the next century. If it is not, it is the backward-looking, religious-oriented worthy of condemnation. Both, and others of their ilk, are sellers of rainbows. It is their way of marketing their wares, most of which are spurious. Ads on TV are almost deafening. They are recorded in high decibels. The purpose is to drown the viewers' reason. Politicians have taken their cue from the ads. A "real" politician is one when he sees a belt, cannot help hitting below it!



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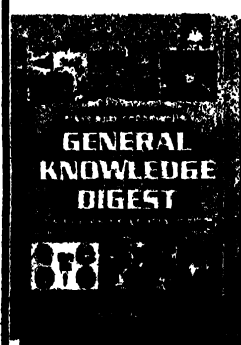
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The Tragedy of East Timor

East Timor is a tiny island province of Indonesia, fighting for independence. President Suharto had kept a strong grip over the area, suppressing all dissent. His successor, B.J. Habibie, opted for holding a UN-sponsored referendum which asked the people whether they wanted East Timor to be an autonomous region of Indonesia or independence. The referendum held on August 30, 1999, showed that an overwhelming majority opted for complete independence. This attracted the wrath of Indonesia's army establishment, which rules the country indirectly. Armed militia, supported by the army, went on a murderous rampage, killing people at will. It has been one of the biggest blood baths of history.

In this feature, we examine the background to the crisis as also the present situation. What happens in the province holds significance for India as well, as comparisons are being made between East Timor and Kashmir.

EAST Timor faces a tragedy of unimaginable proportions. A small island province with a population of 8 lakhs, it was held by Portugal as a colony till 1975, when it suddenly departed. Indonesian troops immediately moved in and took over, despite resistance from the East Timorese. Centuries of exploitation under foreign rule has left the region one of the poorest in the world—its per capita income of \$ 220 is below that of Bangladesh and Cambodia.

After taking over, Indonesia cancelled the local currency, leaving the people without their savings. The region has served the interests of the Indonesian army, which took control over the only export of the province—coffee. The locals were left out of the revenue of \$ 20 million in annual sales. Similarly, offshore oil and gas contracts have been signed by Indonesia, leaving the province out of the revenue earned. Food and other goods are

imported from Indonesia. Indonesian army generals, reportedly, earn over \$ 20 million and have set up fiefdoms, exhorting tax from the locals. There is no industry and 80 per cent of the population survives on subsistence farming. Half of the region's GDP of \$ 113 million consists of salaries of civil servants sent by Jakarta. However, no country except Australia recognised Indonesia's rule. The UN too, never recognised it.

Given these conditions, the people have craved for independence. There was no hope of achieving this during the reign of former President Suharto, who ruled with an iron grip. Suharto was forced out of office in May 1998 and B.J. Habibie took over. He offered the East Timorese a referendum, held on August 30, 1999, and organised by the UN. Despite the violence and the campaign of terror conducted by gangs of militiamen, 98.6 per cent of the eligible voters cast their votes. Results were announced on September 4, and 78.5 per cent of the vote was for independence. East Timor looked close to achieving what it had wanted, but had not expected a furious backlash from anti-independence militia, supported by the Indonesian army.

Terror Unleashed

THE vote triggered systematic killings. More than 2 lakh people had to flee their homes. Anyone who voted for independence was being butchered. The home of 1996 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo, was overrun as he sought refuge in Australia. The capital, Dili, was destroyed and razed to the ground. The UN presence did little to stop the butchery; even foreign journalists were forced to flee or take refuge in the UN's besieged compound. On September 21, a Dutch journalist was killed in Dili. The United Nations Assistance Mission in

East Timor (UNAMLT), which had organised the referendum, was reduced to a skeleton staff of 84, but even these had to be evacuated as the risk to their lives increased. The UN compound was frequently threatened by gunfire and grenades. The distinction between the militia and the Indonesian army increasingly got blurred.

Why did the violence take place? It was clear that the army establishment of Indonesia did not want to let go of East Timor easily. The policy seemed to be of murder and mayhem, which would act as a warning to other regions seeking independence from Indonesia. In particular regions of Aceh, Irian Jaya and Riau, which also nurse such sentiments. The army hoped that its policy of "scorched earth" would deter separatist feelings in other areas. The fears of the rulers of Indonesia are understandable when we consider the fact that the country is a collection of 17,000 islands and is home to 500 religious and ethnic groups. Over 250 languages are spoken. If East Timor is granted independence, other regions or groups too would be encouraged to wage a war against Indonesia.

The international community was shocked by the violence and searched for answers. Should it launch a Kosovo-type operation or should it stand by and watch the slaughter of the East Timorese? The UN faced a big challenge too: having conducted the referendum, did it not have any responsibility towards the people who were now being systematically butchered? What good was its referendum if it could not implement it? By September 15—after weeks of violence and international pressure—Habibie allowed a foreign peacekeeping force of 8,000, led by Australia. US President Bill Clinton pledged 200 soldiers to help with logistics and communication. There were fears that



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I was born in Rajasthan where people are weak in English. I studied in government non-English medium schools. So, I was also weak in English

On my way to Pilani to join B.E. at Chirawa railway station, I met one Mr P V Reddy from Andhra Pradesh who was also going to Pilani to join B.E.

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In the first semester in Pilani, I was a topper with 10 out of 10 grade points, but I was not confident in English. So, I was worried about my weak English and I bought many books, guides, dictionaries, and newspapers

I worked hard, but improvement was very slow. For example, I took one month to read my first novel, R. K. Narayan's *The Guide* because I had to search so many words in a dictionary.

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Author's Bio-Data

- B.E., BITS Pilani M.Tech, IIT Kharagpur NTSE scholar Rank 5 Raj School Board
- World-famous author. I published 3 computer books in USA including best selling "MS-DOS Masters"
- Earned 60 dollars per HOUR in USA as computer expert and writer. At the peak of success, I left USA to do something in our own country. Now, I do research at the Mind Power Research Institute



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- "Good and unique course. I was average in English. Now I can write letters in simple English." — Anita Srinivas AP
- "I want to thank you for this valuable English course. Now I can write & speak English much better than before." — Shavner Avnash M, Noida, MB

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the foreign soldiers would not be safe and casualties were expected. Some Islamic elements have pledged to wage a holy war against the multinational forces.

Central problem

THE central problem in the tragedy were the armed forces of Indonesia. The democratic movement in the country is also under threat from the generals. They are using the events in East Timor to strengthen their power and influence. Ever since Indonesia got its independence from the Dutch in 1949, the armed forces took on a military and political function. They have not loosened their control in the 32 years of rule by Suharto. In the Indonesian elections held in June, 1999, the ruling Golkar party had to be content with the second place. Megawati Sukarnoputri, the daughter of Indonesia's first President, won the elections, a vote against the old order. Yet, the military, headed by General Wiranto, holds on to political power. East Timor could thus be a test for Indonesian democracy as well. It remains to be seen whether the generals will allow a democratically elected government to run the country.

The turmoil being witnessed today in East Timor would be the deciding factor in Indonesia which is itself a struggling democracy and the fourth-biggest country of the world, with a population of 250 million. Indonesians want a resurgence of democracy in their country. They want their democratic rights to be respected, as the recent election has showed. Two outcomes are likely: first, that the army loses its importance, especially since foreign troops had to be allowed into the country. Or, the army may turn out stronger than before if it plays on the nationalist sentiment and says that it was only trying to keep Indonesia united.

East Timor is also a challenge for the international community. The global policeman, US, along with Britain and France, claim to work on principles and have shown in Kosovo that they will take military action if people are oppressed. The people of East Timor have suffered more than the people of Kosovo, yet the

world appears to be standing by and watching the bloodshed. Only Australia and New Zealand have been prepared to be peace-makers. Can the West take on the armed forces of Indonesia, the way they fought in Kosovo?

Kashmir and East Timor

EVENTS happening far away in East Timor can certainly hold significance for India and parallels are being drawn between Kashmir and East Timor. Even in Kashmir, a 50 year old UN Security Council resolution accords the Kashmiris the right to choose between India and Pakistan by referendum. Pakistan may like to invoke the similarities and use East Timor as an example. In fact, attempts of Pakistan to keep Kashmir in international focus may well be towards this end.

The US government has refused to equate Kashmir's with East Timor. Indeed, there is a basic difference: while East Timor was invaded by Indonesia after Portugal abandoned its colony and lacks recognition of either the UN or other countries, Kashmir's union with India was part of the formula of transfer of power at the time of independence. The Maharaja of Kashmir had also signed an Instrument of Accession to the Indian Union in October, 1947. Secondly, India has not exploited Kashmir as a colony the way Indonesia has exploited East Timor.

Pakistan may like to drum up international support and want UN mediation on Kashmir. But the historical differences are too great to equate East Timor with Kashmir. Nevertheless, India does face a diplomatic challenge to counter any attempts that may be made to equate Kashmir with the butchery conducted by Indonesian forces in East Timor.

Building the Economy

IF East Timor is finally able to get independence after the blood bath, the next task will be to build its economy. That would be a daunting task, considering the fact that it has no industry of its own. Its only hope is coffee and spices—it grows the world's finest arabica coffee plants. The coffee plants are grown without using

chemical fertilisers. There is a demand for pure organic blends in the developed world and this could be the only saving element for the tiny new country. The annual revenues were \$20 million last year and could well grow. However, this will only be a little hope of comfort. For one thing, Indonesia is expected to stop funding East Timor. The money flowing in for its civil servants in the area will also stop. The GDP of the country could be below \$100 million next year—smaller than the turnover of a supermarket in USA.

Years of colonialism has left the people destitute. According to the World Bank, only 27% of the houses have electricity and there is little infrastructure. Literacy and education are very low, as is standard of living. The region could develop tourism, but with little infrastructure, this will be a difficult task as well. The threat to law and order from anti-independence militia may stall any tourism in the country. Foreign investors may also stay away because of this reason. Oil revenues are also expected to be low, even if the current agreements are renegotiated in East Timor's favour.

The country will have to rely on foreign aid. Some money may flow in from the developed world. Portugal may also contribute some amount, considering the fact that it held the country so long and now owes something in return. Groups like ASEAN and APEC too have a moral responsibility to help out. But the Indonesian army will once again be the problem, since some generals earn sizeable revenues and have created private empires. They are unlikely to give these up even if full independence is granted.

Either way, it will be a tough fight for survival for the fledgling country. It will have to put together some semblance of economic activity and try to develop itself. The tough road to freedom seems tougher ahead. The task lies with East Timorese leaders Xanana Gusmao, Bishop Carlos Belo and Jose Ramos Horta. They have to heal the wounds inflicted on the country and also to build it up, from the ruins of today.

Role of Human Resources in Economic Development of India

As per the traditional economic theory, labour was considered to be one of the four factors of production, the other three being capital, land and organisation. Since labour and organisation was handled by the human beings, even the classical economic theory acknowledged that human resources accounted for 50 per cent of the total production process. In the modern day world human resource is the most scarce resource in most of the developed countries. That is why countries like the USA, the UK, Canada, Australia, Germany, France, New Zealand, etc. liberally allow migration of skilled human resources particularly in the disciplines in which they face acute shortage. But, unfortunately, in India human resources are not acknowledged as resources but are rather considered to be a problem blamed for most of the economic maladies.

Population "Problem"

IN India, the growing population is treated as a problem and not a resource. Considering globally, at the end of World War-II, the total population of the world was around 2 billion. It is projected to cross the 6 billion mark in October, 1999. While the population is almost stagnant in the developed countries, the developing countries account for most of the population growth in the world. A quick look at Indian scenario reveals that from about 350 million at the time of independence, Indian population is poised to cross the one billion mark, almost three-fold increase in about five decades. High growth of population continues to be a major area of concern to India.

1991 Census recorded a marginal decline in the annual growth rate of population from 2.22 per cent during 1971-81 to 2.11 per cent during 1981-91. This rate of growth is expected to be around 1.9 per cent during 1991-2001 period. Even at this rate, India is adding about 16 million persons to the world's population every year,

which is the highest increase per annum by any country in the world. China, which has more population than India at present adds only 12 million persons per annum, as the Chinese have managed their population growth in a much better manner. In a matter of a couple of decades, India is expected to overtake China in this respect, to achieve the dubious distinction of being the most populous country in the world.

And all this has happened despite enormous effort put in by the government. India became the first country of the world in late sixties to have adopted a State-sponsored population programme, with an overriding priority. Allocation of funds for this programme have risen rapidly from Rs 6.5 million in the First Five-Year Plan to a whopping Rs 65000 million in the Eighth Plan. But, despite increasing doses of funds, population growth also maintained its upward trend. While the Indian population, in absolute terms, grew by 109 million during 1960-71, it registered even higher increase of 139 million during the next decade of 1971-81, on to a massive 160 million during 1981-91.

Partly at the cost of this population control programme, basic amenities like primary education and literacy, health and nutrition, sanitation, provision of safe and potable drinking water, land reforms and social justice have suffered a set-back and even after five decades of independence and economic planning, Human Development Report '99 (HDR-'99) ranks India a poor 132 in the Human Development Index. If the basic assumptions of the policy makers towards the economy do not change, this resource may turn out to be a burden on the economy. Today, India accounts for about 16 per cent of world's population, with 15 per cent of the world farm animal population. To feed this huge population, we just have 2 per cent of world's arable land, 1 per cent of the total

rainfall, 0.5 per cent of the forest and 0.5 per cent of the grazing land.

But there is other side of the coin too. Is population really a problem? Can't the human resources, so much in demand in the developed countries, be developed appropriately to be utilized for rapid development of the country? While most of the countries are making best use of their most abundant natural resources, why do the policy makers in India treat their most abundant source with disdain? These are some of the questions, answers to which may not be very easy to find.

Wrong Priorities

RIGHT from the beginning, growing population in India was considered a problem and efforts were put in to tackle this "problem". But despite having pumped in huge sums of money year after year, the population has not stabilised and it may take three to four more decades to stabilise. Rather than evolving and adopting ways and means to get best out of human resources abundantly available, India is trying to reduce their supply. There is nothing wrong with attempts to control population, but the effort is not followed by the attempt to provide best possible living conditions, on the one hand, and their optimum utilisation, on the other.

Consequent upon the call for a drastic change in the approach to the population problem given by the Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, while inaugurating the International Population Conference in 1989, a high powered Committee was constituted by the Department of Family Welfare under the Chairmanship of M S Swaminathan, which gave revealing recommendations to formulate a pragmatic Population Policy. But, unfortunately, government has not acted on any of the recommendations. Even the Parliament has shown no interest to discuss this report.

During the first decade after independence, India faced frequent famines and food shortages. It was apprehended that if the population continued to grow at the same rate there would be severe food shortages in the coming years. This situation was experienced in India, Pakistan, China and Sub-Saharan Africa. But all the apprehensions have proved to be wrong, as the technological advancement and better research and development have resulted in a higher growth rate of food production. It is over two centuries when the famous demographer Thomas Malthus propounded his theory of population. But, due to apt handling by primarily human beings, the disastrous predictions of Malthus have not come true till now.

While rapid advancements in preventive and curative medicines have resulted in growing population, innovative ideas are responsible to ensure that during the past about five decades, when the world population has increased three times, there have been no shortages of foodgrains. In fact, per capita availability and consumption of cereals and pulses is on the rise in most of the countries. The mankind has been able to cope up with its growing numbers so far.

Over the years, wrong presumptions about population growth have been existing, particularly in the developing countries. The prevailing problems of poverty, illiteracy, low productivity and low rate of growth have simply been attributed to population growth. In most of the developing countries, including India, no effective steps have been taken to formulate plans and policies for human resource development, on the one hand, and their optimum utilisation towards the rapid economic development of the country, on the other. Countries like Japan and Netherlands have very high population density, but also have very high per-capita income and much better quality of life in general. Main reason is that these countries have realized the importance of human resources and serious Human Resources Development (HRD) effort has resulted in every citizen becoming highly skilled in one field or the other.

Need for HRD

One of the most distressing fact is that in India hardly anything has been done in the name of HRD, except for renaming the Ministry of Education to HRD. At macro level, we do not have the inventory of skilled manpower, nor do we have projected need in the country for skilled manpower in various skills and professions for the next two to three decades. India is one of the very few countries in the world which carries out complete enumeration of its population through census operations every decade and huge quantum of data is available about every citizen. It is surprising that this useful data has not been utilized for preparing a data-base or inventory of human resources. Ministry of Home Affairs continues to work in isolation to conduct census, without any coordination with the Ministry of HRD. In all probability, Census-2001 may also turn out to be a similar exercise.

Moreover, there is no ready data regarding graduates being churned out by various universities and institutes every year. In absence of any projection of requirements for future, the government has miserably failed to plan anything on either creating new skills or ensuring that there is no glut in certain disciplines in which capacity is existing but there would be no demand in future. The educational system utterly lacks creation of any skills. The loud talk about creating vocational skill at plus-two level has miserably failed, as no such creation of skills is taking place.

More population does not cause poverty. Urban areas in India have higher density of population but are more prosperous than the rural areas. Human resources are the most important means of creating wealth and income. A noted demographer, Prof Julian L. Simon, had once said, "More people do cause problems but people are the means to solve these problems. The ultimate resource is the people, especially skilled spirited, hopeful young people who will exert their will and imagination for their own benefit and in doing so, will inevitably benefit all of us as well." The main culprit are the unimaginative policies which curtail choices and are nega-

tive in nature. There is nothing wrong in family planning programmes, but despite having invested huge sums of money at the cost of development, the achievements are just ordinary. For example, in India couple protection rate is just around 45 per cent, which means that despite such a massive programmes running for about four decades now, we have not been able to protect 55 per cent of the couples.

Had at least 50 per cent of the resources and effort put in these programmes been put in the HRD, the results would have been different. Hence, rather than focussing on negative policies, if positive and forward-looking HRD policies were adopted to create skills, work out demand trends in various skills in future and ensuring planned HRD at every level, not only the productivity would have been up, but also the unemployment levels would have been low, with most of the human resources contributing immensely to the developmental effort of the country. It is high time that the policy makers realised that people are not just consumers, but more than that they are producers too. More people may be leading to some problems, but it is only these people who would ultimately find solutions to these problems. By shifting the blame of all maladies on the population growth, the policy makers easily ignore their own failures and culpability in framing out-dated, backward-looking and negative policies, rather than making best use of the most important factor of production, i.e. the human resources.

Admittedly, family planning may be a need for a safe future. But equally important is the need for planning the human resources and make deliberate and sincere effort to develop them. Rather than focussing on achieving 100 per cent primary education, the focus should now shift on complete HRD effort so that the education itself achieves at least half of HRD burden. For achieving this, complete overhauling of the out-dated educational system is required. But, before that is done, political and bureaucratic will to focus on HRD is required so that there is a complete reorientation of government policies towards HRD.

Should the Lok Sabha have a fixed tenure?

Elections are a big tamasha in India with film stars and magicians pitching in but there is little doubt that the country has had one election too many. Low turnout and voter fatigue are evident as elections are held frequently. If elections are a means to achieve democracy, India is getting democracy with a vengeance at a very high cost. This has given rise to the suggestion that the Lok Sabha should have a fixed tenure with neither the allies nor the Opposition being able to pull down a government after one or two. The idea is not bad per se. It might usher in some stability that India so desperately needs. But it is not without dangers and thus makes it a debatable issue. This month we go into all the aspects of the question: Should the Lok Sabha have a fixed tenure?

Mr A Friends, the political situation in the country needs no introduction. We have had hung Parliaments in the past few years with no party getting an absolute majority. A coalition government is formed, but it is brought down within months of being formed. Either the Opposition brings it down, or surprisingly, the very coalition partners who got together in the first place. This has given the country a prolonged period of instability. First, because elected governments are not able to do their duties properly because of lack of majority and conflicting demands of allies and the Opposition. Second, because they are always under threat. The consequences of this are before us: the government does not have the time to solve long-standing problems, as it is doing fire-fighting all the time. The economy suffers because investors take the wait-and-watch attitude. Many institutions drift as crucial decisions about their working are not taken. All this has resulted in pushing national interests to secondary

position. This is unfortunate. To avoid this kind of a situation perhaps we need a Parliament with a fixed tenure.

Mr B The idea has merit, but it is not without dangers. For the sake of stability, should we overlook the dangers? These dangers are real. For example, would this not give dictatorial powers to the government, and a minority one at that? Since they know that nothing can dislodge them for a fixed period, they may become arrogant and corrupt. They may bring India to dangerous positions—don't forget that India is now a nuclear power. Personal ambition may take over. The Opposition will be helpless and democracy will suffer. After all, checks and balances are required. If a government is not working properly, the people should have the power to bring it down. I would like to give an example here. In an earlier coalition experiment V.P. Singh started the dangerous game of divisive politics just to protect his position. In the name of social justice, he brought the country to the verge of civil war. Suicides were being committed across the country. In such a situation, should the government have a fixed tenure? Please remember that India is a fragile society and a misguided leader can destroy the very basis of our country. The right to bring down a government is, thus, legitimate.

Mr C Maybe we need a dictator for some time. For years, the country has been drifting. It is now labelled as "the world's biggest underachiever." In the name of democracy and freedom, we have made governance a joke. Nobody works as there is a strange "social justice" that must be delivered by employing inefficient and corrupt

people. Our population growth is out of control. Law and order has been deteriorating. Public institutions and services have broken down. In such a scenario, what harm can be done if we gave the elected government a free hand. That is the only way that certain long-term decisions would be taken about the economy, education and public health. The trouble is that we are too wishy-washy. We want to be known as a great nation but lack the will to take decisions required to become great. That is a pity, since we have the resources but most of them are wasted because of lack of policies.

Mr D I would agree with you to some extent. After all, it cannot be argued by any stretch of imagination that the antics of Sonia Gandhi and Javalalitha in the previous Lok Sabha served Indian democracy in any way. When petty leaders know that they have the power to bring down a government, all their ambitions begin to rise. But having said that, we must admit that giving a government the knowledge that they cannot be removed for a fixed tenure, is not an easy solution. It is also true that the country needs stability. So, perhaps a solution has to be found that takes both things into account. One solution has already been put forward, that the powers of the government be curtailed to some extent so that a leader cannot create mischief in certain areas affecting the national fabric. Perhaps, there are other things that can be done, which preserve democracy and which give stability as well. I think we can learn from the examples of other countries. In Italy, there has been a prolonged period of political instability but it still has some of the world's biggest corporations. In

the US, the President is elected for one term but there are Constitutional safeguards which prevent him from acting irresponsibly. In China, the political system has been successfully separated from the economic one. Perhaps we need a mix of such systems which can help achieve our objectives.

Mr E How can you impose systems of another country on our country? Such a strategy will certainly end in disaster. We have to see what is required for our country and then go about implementing a system that can work here. After all, India is a diverse country and we have to keep many things in mind. We know, for instance, that Sanjay Gandhi failed when he tried to control population through high-handed ways. The example of VP Singh has already been mentioned. So I don't think that any change in the system is required. We are doing fairly well, thanks to our well-entrenched sense of values. No dictator can succeed here. We may be underachievers but our achievements in different fields are not small by any comparison. We have our own satellite launch systems, we are a nuclear power and we have made strides—though modest—in removing poverty and illiteracy. Let us not play down what we have achieved, despite our shortcomings. I don't think that we should rush into changing our system. Our values of democracy and fair play are well rooted in us and every leader knows this. Even if we give a fixed term to the government, the Opposition will surely have the powers to impeach and remove it, should any extreme steps be taken. So we should not worry too much about stability. Let the democratic process take care of such things by itself.

Mr A It is true that India is not a dictatorship. The values of democracy are firmly entrenched in India, but there are two aspects to this. First, I think that we make a fetish of democracy. We forget the cost we are incurring for it. Do frequent elections serve the cause of democracy? In the

last Lok Sabha, we saw the sorry spectacle of politicians pulling down a government for no apparent purpose, except for personal ambitions which were unrealistic to begin with. A needless election has been forced on the country. We are discussing ways by which to avoid this kind of situation in the future. I do not think it is a question of democracy at all. Low voter turnout has shown that for the majority of the people elections have become a bit of a farce. After all, an elected government should be given the time to prove itself. There will always be people who want to topple the government and the question is how to control such people. One way is to have a fixed tenure of the Lok Sabha. Let us look at some other ways. Another way could be to impose a financial burden on the party that topples a government but cannot provide an alternative in place. That will discourage political adventurism to some extent. For example, if Sonia Gandhi knew that she would have to pay a fine for toppling the BJP government and failing to install a Congress government, she would have made sure of her support before her ill-conceived move. Another method could be that the President assesses the situation and if an alternative is not in sight, he should ask the government to continue, even if it does not have the requisite numbers. By these ways, the country can be saved from bouts of instability and frequent elections.

Mr B I agree with you. Since our leaders are not mature enough, there have to be some checks and balances which prevent irresponsible behaviour like the one we have seen in the past. The President has a major role to play in these times. My fear in allowing a fixed tenure of the Lok Sabha was that it would give the elected representatives a free hand to do what they like. We have seen that most of our leaders are corrupt. If they know that they are entrenched for five

years, they will leave all caution to the winds and go about building personal wealth. This is a very real danger. That is why the idea of having a fixed government tenure was not appealing. At the same time, we have also seen large scale waste which results in holding frequent elections. I think we have to find a balance which serves the purpose of stability and, at the same time, prevents complacency in the minds of elected representatives.

Mr C The problem that we have discussed concerns all. We find ourselves in a peculiar position in which we want democracy to function, but at the same time, we do not want frequent changes in government as we have been witnessing in the past few years. It is an understatement that the country suffers. In fact, we are not taken seriously by the international community. Foreign investment is a trickle compared to a country like China. Many smaller countries like Singapore and Taiwan are ahead of us. Political instability has taken a toll not only in our standing but also in the standard of living of our people: the government just does not have the time to address long-term problems. If the present trend continues, we will be left only with elections and little else. That is a dangerous situation and must be avoided. Maybe, instead of giving a fixed tenure to the Lok Sabha, we can have other methods which serve the purpose of bringing stability as also introduces a sense of urgency in the government. Or, perhaps the electorate will polarise among the two big parties and give a majority to one, having got fed up with the antics of politicians. The last seems to be the most probable solution.

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Civil Services Examination

Answers to your FAQs—I

The Civil Services Examination is a challenge and thousands of candidates appear in it every year. As many students appear in the examination we answer some commonly asked questions. To achieve success in the exam it is important to study in a focused manner, both for the Preliminary as well as for the Main Exam. For an IAS aspirant it is important to know the plan of the examination as well as what one might expect.

The examination consists of two parts: the Preliminary Examination (objective type), which is a qualifying examination, and a Main Examination consisting of written examination and interview. The marks obtained in the Preliminary Exam are not counted in the Main Exam and it is only a screening exam. The Preliminary Exam is an objective type test. One can appear in the Main Examination only after passing the Preliminary Exam. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) holds the Preliminary Examination in May/June and the Main Examination is held in October/November. The notification for the Preliminary Examination is published in December every year. The exam is held in many cities in India and one can opt for a centre near one's place so that unnecessary travel is avoided. The number of vacancies are 600-700 every year. Reservation is made for candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

Age The candidate must be between 21 and 30 years of age as on August 1 every year for the exam. Relaxations to the age limit are available for 5 years for candidates belonging to the scheduled castes or those who were domiciled in J&K from January 1, 1980 to December 31, 1989. A relaxation of 3 years in the case of Defence Services Personnel disabled in operations; upto 8 years for Scheduled Caste candidate who is also a defence

personnel, disabled in operations, upto 5 years in case of ex-servicemen including Commissioned Officers who have rendered at least five years Military Service as on August 1 of that year, upto 10 years in the case of ex-servicemen including Commissioned Officers who belong to the Scheduled Castes and who have rendered at least five years Military Service. The date of birth acceptable is the one entered in the Matriculation or School Leaving Certificate. No other documents with respect to age are acceptable.

Educational Qualifications The candidate must hold a degree of any of the Universities incorporated by an act of legislature in India or educational institutions established by an Act of Parliament. A degree from deemed universities under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 is also eligible. Candidates having professional and technical qualifications recognised by the government are also eligible. Candidates having an MBBS degree but have not completed their internship will be provisionally admitted to the Main Examination provided that they submit a certificate of their Institute that they have passed the final professional medical examination. Those who have appeared in the final year but do not have the result can also apply but they would have to produce proof of passing the exam with their application for the Main Exam.

Attempts A candidate is permitted 4 attempts at the examination. There is no restriction on the number of attempts for scheduled caste candidates but Other Backward Classes have seven attempts. If a person appears in the Preliminary Exam or even appears in one paper, it is counted as an attempt. One should make up one's mind before applying and taking an attempt and only a serious attempt should be made.

Fee The fee for the exam is Rs 40, to be paid through Central Recruitment Fee stamps available at post offices. The post office must cancel the stamps so that the impression of the cancellation stamp partially overflows on the application form. Instruments such as postal orders, drafts and such are not accepted and candidates should only send the fee through the Recruitment Fee stamps. Candidates belonging to the scheduled castes and physically handicapped persons are not required to pay any fee.

How to Apply Applications should be made in the prescribed format (the form is published in the newspapers carrying the advertisement) and sent to Under Secretary (CSP), Union Public Service Commission, Dholpur House, New Delhi-110 011. A registration number is given as a token of receipt of the application. If a candidate does not receive an acknowledgement within 15 days, he is advised to contact the UPSC. Admission certificates and Roll Nos. are sent and if they are not received one month before the exam, the candidate should contact the UPSC. Communications to the UPSC should contain name of examination, registration no., name and postal address as given in the application.

Plan of the Preliminary Examination The Preliminary Exam consists of two papers of objective type having maximum marks of 450, as follows:

Paper I	General Studies	150 marks
Paper II	One subject to be selected from below	300 marks
Total		450 marks

Subjects for Paper II (one subject to be selected): Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science, Botany, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Commerce, Economics, Electrical Engineering, Geography, Geology, Indian History, Law, Mathematics, Mechanical

Engineering, Medical Science, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Public Administration, Sociology, Statistics, Zoology.

The question papers are in Hindi and English and each paper is of two hours duration. The course content of the syllabi is of degree level. Each paper is of two hours duration. Blind candidates are allowed an extra time of 20 minutes for each paper.

Plan of the Main Examination: The Main Exam consists of a written exam and an interview test. The written exam has 9 papers of conventional essay type. Marks obtained in the Main Exam will determine whether a candidate is called for the interview. The interview carries 300 marks and the number of candidates called is about twice the number of vacancies. Interview calls are sent on the basis of minimum marks fixed by the UPSC at its discretion. Marks obtained in the Main Exam plus interview determines the final ranking. Candidates are allotted various services keeping in view their ranks in the examination and preferences expressed by them. The written examination consists of the following papers

Paper I	One of the languages to be selected from the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution	300 marks
Paper II	English	300 marks
Paper III	Essay	200 marks
Paper IV & V	General Studies	300 marks each
Paper VI-IX	Any two subjects from list of optional subjects. Each subject has two papers	300 marks
Interview		300 marks

Optional subjects: Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science, Botany, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Commerce and Accountancy, Economics, Electrical Engineering, Geography, Geology, History, Law, Management, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Medical Science, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science and International

Relations, Psychology, Public Administration, Sociology, Statistics, Zoology. Each paper is of 3 hours duration.

The following combinations not allowed are:

Political Science & International Relations and Public Administration
Commerce and Management
Anthropology and Sociology
Maths and Statistics
Agriculture and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science
Management and Public Administration

Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Science and Medical Science

Any two branches of engineering.

Literature of any of the following languages: Arabic, Assamese, Bengali, Chinese, English, French, German, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Marathi, Malayalam, Manipuri, Nepali, Oriya, Pali, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu.

Interview: The object of the interview is to assess the suitability of the candidate for a career in public service. It is an assessment of not only the intellectual qualities but also social traits and interest in current affairs. Some of the qualities judged are: mental alertness, critical powers of assimilation, logical exposition, balance of judgement, variety and depth of interest, social cohesion, leadership and above all, intellectual and moral integrity. To succeed in the interview, candidates should take an intelligent interest not only in areas of their subjects, but also in what is happening around them, both within and outside their country. They should be aware of modern currents of thought and in new discoveries which should arouse the curiosity of well educated youth. That is why it is most important to read magazines and newspapers, watch television programmes on current affairs and also discuss the issues with friends or parents on a regular basis.

A success plan for preliminary examination

One important thing that candidates should keep in mind is that since the time

between the Main Exam and the declaration of result of the Preliminary Exam is very less, it is advisable to begin preparations of the Main Exam along with the Preliminary Exam.

The General Studies paper covers the following areas:

General Science; Current events of national and international importance, History of India; World Geography; Indian Polity and Economy; Indian National Movement; General Mental Ability

For this section, it is important to be updated in all fields. For History, Economy, Polity, etc, it is advisable to read Class 11 and 12 books published by the NCERT. Some books on the freedom struggle are published by the National Book Trust. For general knowledge and objective-type questions, refer to *General Knowledge Refresher* by O P Khanna. For General Mental Ability and current affairs, it is advisable to read *THE COMPETITION MASTER* regularly.

One question that is often asked by students is about the subjects that they should take up. Since some subjects are scoring, students wish to opt for them. But one thing that must be kept in mind is one's aptitude. If one has studied a subject since school and one is comfortable in it, chances of doing well in it are greater rather than taking up an unrelated subject which one may never have studied. Generally speaking, do not choose an entirely new subject in which you will have to work very hard. If the optional is prepared well for the preliminary and the same subject is also planned to be opted as one of the optionals, it is very useful and saves a lot of labour.

Once you have decided to appear in the Civil Services Exam, preparations should start early. A look at past papers helps get an idea about the kind of questions that are asked. Over the years, *THE COMPETITION MASTER* has published solved papers which can be referred to. It may be advisable to join a coaching institute so that one keeps in touch with other students and discuss issues with them. It is important, however, to select a good institute. However, one can be successful by self-study also.

Model Paragraphs

"Laughter is a tranquillizer with no side effects."

—Arnold Glasow

The irony of many a medicine, we are told, is that if it cures, it can cause complications as well. In the midst of this risky adventure, where taking a medicine is fraught with all sorts of ill consequences, there is one anti-dote—rather panacea—for the most devastating illness called mental tension, emotional turmoil or physical stress. With no side effects or adverse reactions flowing from laughter, the most effective tranquillizer for our surcharged emotions, bodily aches and mental tensions, it is a heavenly gift. Laughter, the free favour of nature and the most august asset of our make-up, relieves us of our woes and worries, tears and jeers, kicks and knocks that the man-made morbid milieu administers us at every turn and twist of existence. Laughter, if fully explored and exploited for giving vent to one's suppressed feelings, sentiments and stresses, can work wonders in our lives. With no sickening side effects to fear, laughter is the best pill or potion that costs nothing but cures one and all in equal measure.

"It is easy to drive people. What is hard is to lead them."

—Rabindranath Tagore

Only persons with vision and virtue know the thin line of distinction between driving people to madness and leading people to sanity. It may be quite easy to drive people like dumb-driven cattle and use them as fuel and fodder for one's nefarious designs and dubious distinctions. Gullible as ordinary people are, the more canny and cunning push

them into the alleys of darkness and deprive them of their innate goodness and godliness. Once ordinary people fall into the trap, there is nothing but sorrow to trail them all their lives. Noble persons, who are not motivated by any selfish ends, try their best to tread the right path and expect their friend and followers to follow suit, because in the righteousness of the course, lies the welfare of all. To become a victim of tury and frenzy needs no caution, but to be a prudent person with animal instincts under control needs a lot of discreet deliberations and decent demeanour. It is given to leaders to lead the people properly, so that the objective in view is neither thwarted nor lost sight of. Though a hard and hazardous exercise, leading the mobs to cherished goals and coveted ends, with fair means, is both desirable and durable.

"Justice without force is impotent; force without justice is tyranny."

—Pascal

The principle of justice is like the pivot around which move the paradigms of 'equality before law', 'socio-economic justice' and the much desired 'sanctity of law and its interpretation' without fear or favour. The vast net-work of judiciary and executive is supposed to implement the tenets of justice without delay or dithering because 'justice delayed is justice denied'. If justice without adequate force or power delineates the incapacity of the nation-State, the other side of the coin is equally disturbing and debilitating. The use of force, with ears and eyes shut on the part of 'powers-that-be', is nothing but an open

invitation to tyranny and lawlessness. Justice without discretion and the discerning eye can lead to blood-shed, which no civilized society can afford to live. Justice, therefore, ought to be tempered with necessary force, but no force should be allowed to go wild and wayward.

"Patriotism is the passion of fools and the most foolish of passions."

—Arthur Schopenhauer

To debunk patriotism as the passion of fools or the most foolish of passions, may be a sweeping statement. The truth or validity of the saying becomes self-evident when one tries to go through the pages of history where the passion of patriotism drove certain persons to the brink of belligerence and bellicosity. Fascism was the other side of perverted patriotism which only a foolish person, oblivious of the horrendous consequences of his misdemeanour or misdeeds, does suffer from. In the name of pompous patriotism, prudence is pushed aside and the apple cart of socio-economic progress upset. Patriotism devoid of prudent perceptions and perspectives can lead to pitfalls that a person or polity may find hard to recover or redeem. More harm than good may proceed from the passion of possessive patriotism if the fools are not reined in and their foolish passions are not curbed. Nationalism and not patriotism is the sober sentiment that renders citizens responsible and responsive to the needs or requirements of unfolding situations. The world, at different points of time, has paid a very heavy price for the folly of fanaticism, which the fools flaunt as patriotism.

How do chlorofluro carbons pose a danger to the ozone layer?

—Rajan Singh, Ludhiana

The upper atmosphere contains a layer of ozone, which is formed when ultraviolet radiation from the sun acts on oxygen. This layer of ozone protects the earth from the sun's ultraviolet rays. In recent decades there has been a significant reduction in the amount of atmospheric ozone due to the discharge into the atmosphere of chlorofluro-carbons, which are widely used in

refrigeration, insulating foam, solvents and aerosols. These remain in the atmosphere for a long time and combine with and destroy ozone molecules. This is how chlorofluro carbons (CFCs) result in destruction of the atmospheric ozone

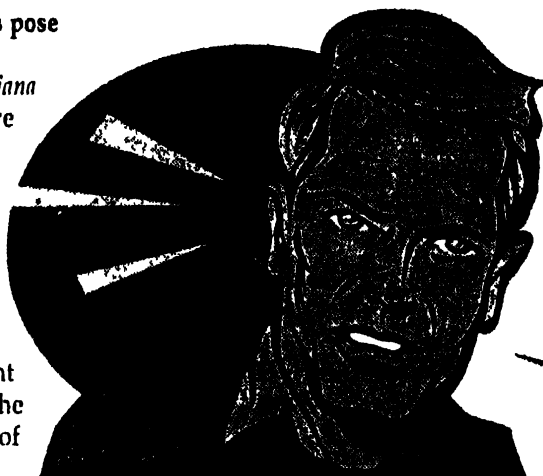
I want to join a computer institute. But there are so many of them, each claiming to be better than the other. I feel confused. Could you help me make up my mind?

—Manasa Ranjan, Calcutta

Most young people join Computer Institutes for the wrong reason—to know something about computers. That is the reason that such courses do not result in lucrative jobs promised by computer institutes. In order to get the best results, it is important to follow some simple steps.

First, assess why you want to join a computer institute. Is it to become a software expert or just to know something about computers to keep up with the world? If the latter be your aim, reading a book may be a better option. But if you want technical knowledge that helps you get a software job, look for an institute that can train you in such softwares. Joining a generalised course will not be of any use.

We understand that there is a lot of advertising hype created by computer institutes, but it is important to keep your objectives clear. If you work backward from your needs, you will make a better



I am in the second year and want to appear for CAT next year. How can I start my preparation?

—Atul Vaish, Allahabad (U.P.)

It is good that you are thinking of CAT one year in advance. You can start doing your basics in Maths and English. Since speed is required in the examination, a thorough understanding is essential. You can build this up over two years.

At the same time, do a number of tests, like

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the one published by COMPETITION MASTER, to help assess where you stand. In this way, you can constantly upgrade and improve your performance.

What is meant by "Hi-Fi" Radio?

—Mostafa Gazi, 24 Paraganas (W. Bengal)

High Fidelity, or its generic noun "Hi-Fi" is used for systems carrying a signal with very little distortion. A camera or radio transmitter could be high fidelity. In common parlance, "Hi-Fi" is used to describe domestic equipment for sound reproduction.

I am a student of class 12 and want to do Hotel Management but have no idea where to start. Could you please guide me?

—Vikas Joshi, Lucknow (U.P.)

There are a number of private and government institutes offering diplomas and degrees in Hotel Management. You should start preparing for the entrance tests when you are in class 12.

Many institutes come under the National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology. The test is held in April every year. You should look out for admission notification in January. A number of hotel chains, such as the Taj Group and Welcomgroup also have their training courses leading to diplomas in Hotel Management. Finally, there are a large number of private institutes for which you could prepare.

I would like to prepare for the UGC-NET exam. What is the syllabus for Reasoning and how can I prepare for it?

—Seema Sharma, New Delhi

The UGC sends some sample questions when you apply for the NET exam. This will help you assess the syllabus and the requirements for the exam. Generally speaking, a book on reasoning would cover all kinds of questions that are asked. You can also refer to "Test of Reasoning" published by Khanna Brothers.

From where can I get detailed syllabus of DOE-ACC-A level exams?

—Ranjan Roy, Durgapur (W. Bengal)

You can get a detailed syllabus of DOE courses from an accredited institute. It is also published in newspapers along with a list of such institutes. You can also write to DOEACE Society, Electronics Niketan, 6, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003.

What is the eligibility for appearing in the IAS examination.

—Kanchan Singh, Asansol (West Bengal)

The civil services notification says that candidates must hold a degree from any of the universities incorporated by an

QUESTION BOX

act of legislature or educational institutions established by an act of Parliament. A degree from a deemed university by the UGC is also eligible.

What can be done to improve General Knowledge for IAS?

—Joseph P.A., P.O. Chiyaram (Kerala)

A constant reading and awareness are the secret to General Knowledge. You can follow a book like "General Knowledge Refresher" by O.P. Khanna as also read THE COMPETITION MASTER regularly. Do the question papers published in it regularly. In this way, your General Knowledge will increase a great deal.

What is Econometrics? Is it related to Economics?

—Shweta Jain, Mumbai

Econometrics is a branch of Economics that uses statistical methods to describe economic phenomena and thus discover how they affect each other. The term also refers to statistical and mathematical analysis of economic relationships.

What is bait money?

—Anil Kumar, New Delhi

Bait money is money offered as a bait to trap a prospective client. Sometimes companies offer high interest payments or discounts which act as a bait for people to invest in such companies.

I am a student of law. I am planning to do CA and CS also. Will an MBA degree be useful for me?

—Manas Verma, Dehradun (U.P.)

You want to do many things. It is true that every degree is useful but before you collect every conceivable degree that you can think of, it would be advisable to figure out what you want to do and achieve in life. Apparently, you do not want to be a lawyer. Sit down and decide whether you want to be an accountant, a company secretary or a business manager. Then go about getting the necessary qualifications. Otherwise, you may take up too much burden which may hamper your performance. Generally speaking, a CA-CS, MBA-CS, MBA-CA are good combination of degrees.

When was the Morse code made?

—Arun Kumar Sahoo, Puri (Orissa)

The Morse code was devised in 1838 by Samuel Morse. Messages could be delivered by means of representations of dots and dashes. These days ships use digital systems and the Morse code has been discontinued.

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Descriptive Questions

Educational qualifications and Candidates seeking elections

Q. 1. For the successful working of democracy, some educational qualifications ought to be laid down for candidates seeking elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. Give two arguments in favour and two against the proposition.

Arguments in favour of the proposition

1. We take pride in our democracy and perhaps rightly so but there could be nothing more ridiculous than our smugness with which we have deliberately ignored the most basic requirement of prescribing some minimum educational qualifications for our legislators and members of Parliament. More than fifty years after independence, we have the rare distinction of having some law-makers who can neither read nor write and yet sit in the august bodies of law-making that affect the destiny of millions and millions of our poor and gullible citizens. This passes our comprehension as to why the question of fixing some minimum educational qualifications for those seeking elections to State assemblies and Parliament should cause so much controversy and consternation.

2. If for some junior-most post or job, some basic qualifications are required, why not for those who are supposed to debate, discuss and deliberate and then decide policies that concern every citizen in one way or the other. Besides the lung and tongue power that our elected representatives profusely use while sitting or standing in the safe haven of 'law-making houses', the ability to peruse draft bills, policies and programmes should not be treated with contempt, as has been the case till now.

Arguments against the proposition

1. Since a majority of our population

still lives in villages and the scourge of drop-outs is the highest among rural boys and girls, how can we debar them from contesting elections when they become eligible and that too on the flimsy ground of not possessing the minimum educational qualifications. By insisting on this condition, we shall be exercising the worst type of discrimination against those who have remained illiterate or unlettered for no fault of theirs.

2. The commanding heights that persons like K. Kamraj and others achieved in public life, without the appendage of elitist education, both at the State and national-level, should be enough to open the eyes of those who are so enamoured of paper qualifications. More than the bookish knowledge, it is the inherent commonsense that communicates with the masses, which is the asset of most political personalities. No snobbery but the seriousness of purpose should be the basic qualification of candidates seeking elections to State assemblies and Parliament.

Model code of conduct and governance

Q. "Model code of conduct cannot declare a lock-out on governance." Substantiate the statement with your considered views based on experience, reading and knowledge.

Ans. With elections becoming too frequent to arouse any public interest, it is but natural that the paramount job of governance suffers the most during the period when the model code of conduct comes into force. In fact, governance, good or bad, comes to a near halt once the elections begin to loom large over the country. Willy-nilly, the model code of conduct declares a lock-out on governance because no policy decisions or new programmes

can be initiated, lest they be construed as misuse of power by the 'care-taker government' or denial of level playing ground to all parties other than the ruling one. In three years, our polity has witnessed or undergone the ordeal of three elections to the Lok Sabha, with the result that there has been very little governance and much more politics, polemics and politicking. The question that should stir us the most is 'whether we can allow our one billion people to suffer stagnation or status-quoism' for no fault of theirs. Certainly not.

No government worth its salt can afford to sit back and watch events overtaking the national interests. Some vital decisions that concern the security of the country cannot brook any delay whatever the legal status of the government. If the country is subjected to external threat, overt or covert, some momentous actions have to be taken regardless of the 'model code'. The wheels of production and productivity cannot be allowed to slow down or be jammed simply because corrective initiatives or steps are prohibited under the code.

The model code, as we all know and agree, has been designed to facilitate free and fair elections and not to be a hindrance to governance. If the election-period becomes inordinately lengthy for reasons best known to those who 'matter and chatter' the most, governance of a country like India cannot be given a go-bye. We are living in a highly complex world and any crisis anywhere under the sun is going to affect us, more or less, for which the government of the day has to act in the best interests of the country. If by doing so, the ruling party or coalition is benefited to some extent, let it be so. There is no denying that for the conduct of free and fair elections, the strict enforcement or interpretation of 'model code' is

a *must*, but care should be taken by the Election Commission that over-enthusiasm/interference does not become synonymous with non-governance or governance going in a state of limbo

Population Explosion

Q. Suggest three effective measures to deal with our exploding population problem. Explain how the measures suggested by you would be effective in the prevailing socio-economic scenario

Ans. Having already crossed the one-billion mark, it is a matter of shock and shame that we are least worried about the population problem that can land us in the most difficult and daunting situations. Political parties, conspicuously unconcerned about the 'exploding numbers' and the 'environmental degradation', have yet to get out of their slumber and see the writings on the wall. Before the tinder-box (population) explodes and engulfs all and sundry into its devastating embrace, we should adopt the following measures to tackle the dilemma that stares us in the face

Past experience tells us that coercion and compulsion in matters of population control or family planning can prove counter-productive. At the root of most of our socio-economic problems is widespread illiteracy and that too among our women. Unless this area of 'darkness' is lighted by giving massive and meaningful education to the totally uneducated and ignorant ones, the numbers would continue to haunt us at every turn and twist of our developmental activities and successes. Hence, the first and the foremost measure to check the exploding demographic graph is to educate all, and particularly the women.

Solutions of the problems do exist and often they are simpler than what the 'powers that be' would like us to believe. Both the programmes of population control and illiteracy should be taken together, as they are inextricably linked with each other. Since both these problems are mainly confined to the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya

Pradesh, the Chief Ministers of these States should be asked to keep the portfolios for education, health and family with themselves and examine from time to time why things refuse to move in the right direction. State administrations should see that rural couples who opt for birth control are not made to travel several kilometres, usually on foot, to buy means of birth control.

Television, whose reach and impact, have gone beyond all expectations, can be a powerful medium of spreading literacy among all sections of our society who have remained deprived of this basic need of self-improvement and social change. Besides entertainment, it can become a powerful instrument in changing many a flaw in our approach and attitude.

National interest versus contentious issues

Q. In the opinion of some right thinking persons, 'Contentious issues that divide the people' should be shelved for some years. Substantiate the statement with your views based on ground realities, and national interests.

Ans. There is no gainsaying the fact that India is confronted with a host of problems, some of which are a legacy from the past while others are the results of short-sightedness and electoral arithmetic. Democracy for all intents and purposes is a government by majority rule or vote, but quite often, despite simple or brute majority, the concepts of consensus and conciliation should take precedence over conflict and confrontation. Since there is no dearth of socio-economic problems that we face in the most turbulent and troublesome period of our national life, it is in the fitness of things that all contentious issues that are likely to divide us to the last person are put on the back-burner or shelved for some years.

Contentious issues are, more often than not, emotional in content and context and once they are raised or magnified out of proportion and propriety, the real issues like eradication of poverty and illiteracy,

health and family planning, etc get relegated to the background and the country keeps slipping into the morass and mire of social unrest, economic disparities and political puerility. If we are caught more and more in the cobweb of non issues it is high time that political parties of all hues and hypes give up their prejudices and partisan proclivities and devote their words and deeds towards tackling the problems of the people in a spirit of give-and-take. The contentious issues like the reorganisation of States, bringing more and more classes or communities under reservation category, construction of Ram Temple, Uniform Civil Code, abrogation of Article 370 and the like can safely be deferred till such time when tempers cool down and consensus becomes the common concern of all. Of all other considerations that have clouded the vision of political parties and persons, only national interest should become the motivating force behind all deliberations and actions. There is nothing more sacred and sacrosanct than attending to the real issues of national importance and urgency. The sane voice of sane right thinking persons should be heeded.

Current Affairs & Backgrounders

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CHANDIGARH

NOVEMBER

India

The predominant amongst significant events which took place during the months of November in the Indian history include—organisation of Gadr Party in San Francisco by I ala Hardyval with the help of Ram Chandra and Barkatulla on November 1, 1913 starting of Non Brahmin Movement on November 20, 1916, British Cabinet setting up a Reforms Commission under the chairmanship of John Simon on November 8, 1927, commencement of first Round Table Conference at London on November 15, 1930, Mahatma Gandhi commencing 'Harijan Tour from Satyagraha Ashram Wardha on November 7, 1933, Jai Prakash Narayan disappearing from Hazaribagh Jail on November 9, 1942, beginning of I N A Court Martial in Red Fort on November 5, 1945; Constituent Assembly passing Indian Constitution on November 26, 1949, inauguration of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works by Dr Rajendra Prasad on November 2, 1953; French Government transferring Pondicherry Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam to India on November 1, 1954, commissioning of Kidderpore (Calcutta) Basculat bridge on November 5, 1960, formation of Haryana and Union Territory of Chandigarh on November 1, 1966, inauguration of Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi on November 14, 1969, signing of Farakka agreement by India and Bangladesh on November 5, 1977, Congress (I) Parliamentary Party electing Rajiv Gandhi leader on November 2, 1984 (after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi), commissioning of India's highest TV Tower (235 metres) at Peetampura (New Delhi) on November 7, 1988, Prime Minister Chandra Sekhar winning (269 to 204 with 15 absentees) the 'trust vote' on November 16, 1990; at Durban, Sachin Tendulkar becoming

the first batsman to be given out by the third umpire on November 14, 1992; breaking of Milkha Singh's Rome Olympic (1960) record of 400-metre by Paramjit Singh of Police on November 4, 1998

Dedicatory

James Clerk Maxwell, the Scottish Physicist of the fame of electro magnetic theory, was born on November 13 1831

Surendra Nath Banerjee, who was instrumental in the formation of Indian Association (1876) was born in Calcutta on November 10 1848

Bipin Chander Pal, noted freedom fighter who also started the monthly Journal *Hindu Review* was born at Poil (Bangladesh) on November 7, 1858

Marie Curie, the Polish born French Physicist, who twice won the Nobel Prize, was born on November 7, 1867

Chandrashekhar Venkata Raman, the Indian Scientist and winner of the Nobel prize, was born at Trichinopoly on November 7, 1888

Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of independent India, was born on November 14, 1889

International

The array of significant events which took place during the months of November in the international history include—Panama becoming independent of Colombia on November 3, 1903, Alfred Harmsworth founding the British newspaper *The Daily Mirror* on November 2, 1904; German fleet mutinying at Kiel on November 3, 1918; in the Balfour Declaration, Britain announcing support for a Jewish State in Palestine on November 2, 1917; the British

Broadcasting Company (BBC) making its first broadcast on November 14, 1922, Adolf Hitler attempting a futile *coup d etat* in Munich to overthrow the Bavarian Government on November 8, 1923, Stanley Baldwin becoming Prime Minister of Britain on November 6, 1924, Turkey abolishing use of the Arabic Alphabet in favour of Roman scheme on November 3, 1928, George II returning Greece to make it once again a Monarchy on November 3, 1935, re-election of President Roosevelt for a third term as US President on November 5, 1940 UNLSCO coming into being on November 4, 1946, Israeli Prime Minister David Ben Gurion resigning because of the 'Spiritual fatigue' on November 4, 1953, Israel and Egypt signing the historic 6-point document—the first direct pact in 25 years—on November 11, 1973, Pakistan officially ending its membership to SEATO on November 7, 1973 (19 years after the founding of the joint Defence Pact), in USSR Yuri Andropov succeeding Brezhnev on November 12, 1982, opening of King Khalid International Airport, the largest in the world, on November 14, 1983, at Bangalore Richard Hadlee becoming the highest wicket taker in the Test Cricket on November 12, 1988, Nawaz Sharif taking over on November 6, 1990 as 11th Prime Minister of the 5th freely elected Government of Pakistan; democrat Bill Clinton winning election and becoming the 42nd President of USA on November 4, 1992; Mrs Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, 49, taking over as Sri Lanka's youngest, first woman and the 4th President on November 12, 1994; Bill Clinton agreeing to pay \$ 850,000 to Paula Jones to drop her sexual harassment lawsuit on November 14, 1998.

General Studies Scene

Expected Questions for forthcoming Mains Examination

Q. 1. The office of the President of India was designed on the British Model. With this background, consider the modifications of the Executive Powers of the President by 42nd Amendment 1976 and thereafter by the 44th Amendment 1978 to the Constitution of India. Comment on the changes.

Ans. 1. After independence, the framers of Indian Constitution adopted the Parliamentary Democracy, mainly adopting the British Model with certain differences. One of the main differences is that while India is a republic, Britain still follows the Monarchy, with the Monarch being the Executive Head. But like Indian President, British Monarch is also the nominal head and Executive Powers are, in fact, exercised by the Council of Ministers. Framers of Indian Constitution also adopted the same model and vested the President with similar powers as to the king of Britain. There are two limitations on the executive powers of the President. Article 75 (1) specifically requires that Ministers can be appointed by the President only on the advice of the Prime Minister. Further, Article 74 (1) requires that executive shall be exercised by the President of India in accordance with the advice of the Council of Ministers.

Originally, the Constitution of India did not expressly envisage that the President was bound to act in accordance with the advice given by the Council of Ministers, although it was held by several judgements of the Supreme Court of India that the President of India was not the real executive but a constitutional one, who was bound to act as per the advice of the Council of Ministers. *Sanjeevi Vs State of Madras* and *Shamsher Singh Vs State of Punjab* are two such cases decided by the Supreme Court of India in 1970 and 1974 respectively, holding the above position.

Several changes were introduced in the Constitution of India by 42nd amendment in 1976. An amendment in Article 74 (1) made it obligatory on part of the President of India to act in accordance with the advice of the Council of Ministers in exercise of his functions. The amended provision reads as under:

"There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President, who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice."

Even after the change of government at the Centre in 1977 the new government retained the above amended text, but vide 44th Constitutional amendment a proviso was added, enabling

the President to require the Council of Ministers to reconsider such advice; but if the advice is reiterated, the President has no option but to accept it. The added proviso to Article 74 (1) is as under:

"Provided that the President may require the Council of Ministers to reconsider such advice, either generally or otherwise, and the President shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration."

As a result of above changes, the President hardly has any discretion and any refusal to act as per such an advice may attract impeachment proceedings against him for violation of the Constitution. Hence, all the powers provided in the Constitution in the name of the President are *de-facto* the powers of the Council of Ministers and the Prime Minister. These changes, however, are in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution. In a democratic set-up like ours, the executive powers must be vested in the institution that represents the sovereign will of the people. Since the

President of India is elected by an indirect election by an electoral college having limited electorate, logically the President does not have the direct mandate of the people. Since the mandate is in favour of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers, the executive

powers are rightly vested in them.

Q. 2. Discuss the secular nature of Indian Polity. Also discuss the position of minorities in India.

Ans. 2. Right from its original formation, Indian Constitution had a secular character, guaranteeing the secularism in Articles 25 to 29, alongwith special provisions for minorities. Indian secularism means that the State projects all the religions equally and does not itself uphold and adopt any religion as the State religion. The ideal of secularism in India seeks to achieve the unity and fraternity of the people of India, protecting its ethnic diversity. 42nd Amendment inserted the word 'secular' in the Preamble of the Constitution, making it a part of basic structure of the Constitution. As done by some other constitutions, Indian Constitution does not prescribe any religion to be the official religion of the State. Rights of the citizens, granting liberty of belief, faith and worship, have been enshrined in the fundamental rights, with a constitutional remedy. Hence, a citizen of India is at liberty to profess, practice and propagate any religion of his choice.

Various judicial pronouncements have widened the meaning

This feature has been specially prepared to help the aspiring candidates of Civil Services (Mains) examination have an idea of type of questions that are asked in the General Studies paper and the way these questions are to be answered. This issue incorporates topics which our experts feel might be asked in the forthcoming examination

of secularism in India. Not only practice and propagation of religion is allowed, but also those rituals and observances which are regarded as integral part of a religion by the followers of a religion. Things which are essentially religious cannot be interfered by the regulation of the State.

The word "secular" has a diverse meaning. But its true interpretation in the context of Indian Constitution has adequately been made by the Supreme Court of India in its various judgments. Main features of Indian secularism, thus, are as under:

(a) Secularism does not render the State hostile towards religion, but makes it neutral between different religions.

(b) Every citizen is free to practice and profess his own religion and the term, secularism does not render an ardent follower of a religion "non-secular".

(c) The fact that Sanskrit is offered as an elective subject and not Arabic or Persian, does not violate the basic tenets of secularism.

(d) Politics and religion cannot be mixed in India. No political party can appeal to the electorate for votes on grounds of religion, as it violates the provisions of Article 356 of the Constitution.

(e) Secularism is part of basic structure of the Constitution and any attempt to violate the above feature would be violative of the provisions of the Constitution.

A few States have legislated Acts to prevent conversion of a person to other religion by force, fraud or allurement and deciding petitions in favour of these Acts, the Supreme Court of India has held that the word "propagate" does not give the right to convert people forcibly or by inducements, as it violates another basic liberty of a man—the liberty of conscience. There is, however, no bar on a person voluntarily converting himself to some other religion.

Minorities: There are special provisions in the Indian Constitution to protect the interests of minorities. All minority groups, including religious, linguistic or cultural minorities, have been safeguarded by special provisions. While the religious freedom granted by the Constitution in Articles 25-29 has already been explained above, the Constitution also guarantees the right to conserve the distinct language, script or culture. Linguistic and cultural minorities have this protection, enabling them to conserve and practice their culture and language. As per Article 350 A, the State is required to provide adequate facilities for instruction in mother tongue at the primary stage of education to the children belonging to linguistic minorities. Further, Article 350 B provides for appointment of a special officer for linguistic minorities to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for this group of people. In addition, no citizen can be denied admission to an educational institution maintained by the State or receiving State aid, on ground only of religion, race, caste, language or any of them. Last, but not the least, the Parliament in 1992 enacted the National Commission for Minorities Act 1992 for monitoring the working of the safeguards provided in the Constitution for minorities.

The foregoing reveals that though the extreme steps like communal representation have been avoided by the makers of the

Constitution, yet special and explicit provisions have been made for the minorities with a view to safeguard their interests. A provision like communal representation would have rather harmed the interests of these groups. Even without defining such specific representation, an impartial observer would not fail to observe that persons belonging to minorities have reached the highest office of the President in India, in addition to the offices like Vice-President, Ministers, Governors, Ambassadors, Judges of superior courts and even Chairpersons of several Constitutional bodies from time to time. In addition, they also have the right to set up educational institutions of their choice. Several provisions of temporary nature are also there for their upliftment, till their backwardness is removed.

Q. 3. Briefly describe the Kashmir problem. Why has India been opposing the demand for plebiscite? Recent intrusions in Kargil area points to certain shortcomings in Indian defence. Examine them and also discuss the lessons learnt for future.

Ans. 3. Kashmir problem is the legacy of the British Rule. When the British left India, they did not clearly decide the fate of the Princely States and gave them the option of joining either the State of India or Pakistan. Most of the rulers of these States decided to accede to the State in whose geographical area their States were situated, by signing the "instrument of accession", as provided in the Indian Independence Act 1947. Problem arose in the States of Hyderabad, Junagarh and Kashmir, the three largest States. In the States of Junagarh and Hyderabad the rulers were muslim and majority of the population was Hindu. The rulers delayed the signing of the instrument of accession in favour of India, resulting in large-scale violence and disturbances in these two States. Indian government restored the law and order and conducted plebiscites in these States, getting overwhelming response in favour of India. As a result, these two States were merged in Indian Union.

Situation of Kashmir was entirely different. Ruler of Kashmir Raja Hari Singh was Hindu while majority of population was Muslim. He also delayed signing of instrument of accession in favour of any of the countries. In 1948, Pakistani Army, in the garb of local tribals, attacked Kashmir to capture and annex it forcibly. At that time, ruler of Kashmir executed the instrument of accession in favour of India. But, by the time Indian armed forces were rushed to Kashmir, northern and western parts of Kashmir had already been captured by the Pakistani forces. The United Nations intervened and ordered cease fire and wherever the forces of two countries were positioned, it was called the Line of Control and was given the status of international border.

Since then, there have been wars for Kashmir, with Pakistan claiming this State. Pakistan has also demanded time and again, at various international fora that there should be plebiscite in Kashmir also. But India maintains that after the erstwhile ruler of Kashmir executed the instrument of accession in favour of Indian Union, the question of plebiscite did not exist, as Kashmir has now become the integral part of India. This is the reason that India has been opposing the demand of plebiscite in Kashmir or

raising of this issue at international fora.

The recent intrusions of Pakistan Army and mercenaries in Kargil area of Kashmir was another desperate attempt by Pakistan to capture territories of Kashmir. Although the intruders have been driven away, yet the incident has exposed certain flaws in Indian defences in this area. One of the most prominent flaws was the failure of intelligence agencies. The presence of intruders across the LoC on Indian side, was detected by the Indian troops in May, 1999, while they had already moved atop these hills about six months before. Secondly, the non-availability of snow-boots and other winter equipment with the armed forces in sufficient quantities in these areas is a cause for concern, which hampered the offensive by the Indian Army to some extent. The quality of equipment with the intruders was much superior. Further, the arms and other defensive devices available with the Indian Army need upgradation to meet potential challenges from across the border. The desire of the government to win the war diplomatically against the international community was fulfilled and paid rich dividends, but the decision not to cross the LoC cost the Army dearly, as strategically it was a blunder to assault the intruders frontally.

But the valour of Indian soldiers, along with outstanding junior leadership provided by young officers leading from the front, more than made up for the above deficiencies. Knowing fully well that while attacking from front, particularly in the mountains, the casualties are going to be very heavy, the brave Indian soldiers, duly motivated by their officers, drove the intruders out even at the peril of their lives. Operation Vijay was one of the toughest operations the Indian Army has ever undertaken, and as usual it has come out with flying colours. But despite this, there are several tough lessons to be learnt, some of which are as under:

(a) Intelligence is the "eyes and ears" of the Army and a small slip may lead to serious repercussions. There is need to strengthen strategic and tactical intelligence.

(b) There is an urgent need to upgrade the equipments and weapon systems, particularly the small arms with a view to match the capabilities of the militants in Kashmir.

(c) Ground and air surveillance capabilities of the Army and Air Force need strengthening.

(d) To acquire state-of-the-art counter-bombardment capabilities in the mountains for the Artillery.

(f) To equip the Air Force with adequate capabilities to operate more effectively in the Kargil-like situations in the mountains.

(g) Review of military preparedness from time to time is a must.

(h) During the War-like emergencies, bureaucratic channels should be allowed to be by-passed and the Armed Forces should be given a free hand to take their own strategic decisions.

Q. 4. What is bio-technology? Discuss how the promotion and process of this technology can bring spectacular changes in the areas of health, energy, food and agriculture?

Ans. 4. Biotechnology is a science of recent origin. It is a multi-disciplinary subject of science evolved from the integrated use of bio-sciences, chemical sciences and engineering sciences. Biotechnology was initially evolved by several advancements in

molecular and cell-biology, but later covered the broader areas of science including recombinant DNA technology, commonly called genetic engineering, protoplast fusion, hybridoma technology, embryo transfer technology, fermentation, enzymes and protein engineering. All these areas of biotechnology can broadly be classified in three categories—microbial biotechnology, plant biotechnology and animal biotechnology. All these broad areas of advancements in biotechnology can immensely benefit in the fields of food, agriculture, energy and health, thereby contributing to the well-being of the mankind.

For the developing countries, the advancement of this science can be of spectacular benefits in the field of agriculture, food and energy. Hybrid plants and seeds can be developed to suit the peculiar needs of these countries by using the technique of genetic engineering. Better food plants with much higher nutritional value can be developed. Development of high yielding variety seeds and plants can solve the food problem in many food-deficient countries. The same process can also assist in developing resistance in plants against pests and other diseases. Using technique called tissue-culture, mass propagation of plants can be resorted to, to overcome the shortage of superior quality root-stock. In the field of energy, microbial processes can be used to produce gas and energy from the industrial and agriculture wastes. These technologies are being used successfully in a few countries and can easily be adopted by the developing world to suit their needs, with slight modification.

Another area where bio-technology can be used vastly is health and medicine. Development of more effective but cheaper drugs, better vaccines, better anti-fertility agents, production of hormones through genetically engineered bacteria, vaccine for cancer and prevention of genetically transmitted diseases are some of the applications of bio-technology in this field. New-found ability to manipulate the DNA to cure the hereditary diseases is just revolutionary.

Q. 5. Briefly review India's Energy Resources. In the context of the world shortage of petroleum, how would you plan for meeting our rural energy needs? Discuss the relative merits of centralised generation, supply and distribution of energy vis-a-vis generation of energy at consumer points or centres.

Ans. 5. In the developed as well as the developing world, availability and judicious use of sources of energy is very important for rapid economic development. In addition to the domestic and household requirements, which are quite high due to heavy population pressure in India, agriculture, industry, transportation and other services sector also need plenty of energy. Being part of basic infrastructure, a country like India can ill-afford to have shortage of energy.

In India, energy scenario is a bit complex. Among the indigenously produced primary commercial fuels, the relative share of oil and gas has increased from 1.2 per cent in 1950-51 to over 35 per cent at present. On the other hand, share of coal has declined from 98 per cent to about 55 per cent. Fuelwood still remains the largest contributor of energy to the rural household. But commercially, coal still remains the most important. India accounts for

about 1 per cent of the total geological reserves and about 6 per cent of the proved reserves of coal in the world. Total geological coal reserves in the country are estimated to be about 200 billion tonnes, and going by the patterns of consumption, the coal is going to last only for 50 to 60 years. At the beginning of 8th Plan, Hydroelectric (Hydel) potential in the country was 600 billion kilowatt, out of which only 20 per cent of the potential has been tapped. Being renewable, this source is very important for future. So far as Oil and Natural Gas is concerned, India has only 0.04 per cent of the world's proven reserves of hydrocarbons, which are estimated to be around 22 billion tonnes. India also has rich sources of uranium and thorium, and if properly tapped, would be able to meet the full energy requirements of the country. By the beginning of Eighth Five Year Plan, share of coal in total energy consumption was 30 per cent, followed by 43 per cent share of oil and gas, with electricity having a share of 17 per cent.

Most of the countries in the world have shortage of petroleum and are dependent on imports. India is no exception. Since the petroleum is imported, the burden has mainly shifted to coal and fuel wood, particularly in the rural areas. But, since coal reserves are limited and use of fuel wood poses danger to the ecology, some alternatives have to be planned to meet the rural energy needs, without straining the limited resources of coal and hydrocarbons. In rural areas, the energy needs are mostly for the household sector, agricultural sector and cottage industries. In seventies, the government tried to popularise the use of bio-gas generated from the animal waste, for the use of household sector. Though the bio-gas project was not as successful as planned, yet this type of energy can be used to replace the fuel-wood substantially, if the beneficiaries are also given training in the repair and maintenance of the plant. Solar energy in India is available in plenty and most parts of the country have more than 300 sunny days and the use of solar energy for domestic sector as well as micro-enterprises is viable in these areas. The areas which are on higher mountains or plateaus, or on the coastal areas having higher intensity of air, can use wind-energy for generation of electricity. Mini and micro hydel projects can also be used to ensure that the scarce sources are preserved and the non-conventional and renewable sources are used.

At times, there is a debate whether centralised generation of electricity should be used or local level generation at supply points should be resorted to. Both the proposals have their respective merits and demerits. Local level generation of energy has the advantage of minimum losses and low cost on account of transmission from one place to the other. Secondly, local generation can use local source more usefully, like wind, water, coal or even sunlight. Further, local-level generation would also provide employment to local people. Moreover, the requirement of capital investment would also be less. But centralised generation has its own advantages. Firstly, at many places, no local source may be available for energy generation. Moreover, central generation ensures most economical generation with the help of most abundant and suitable source. In addition, due to the economics of scale, centralised generation works out to be much cheaper.

Though both these concepts have their pros and cons, it ap-

pears that a middle path would be most beneficial. In addition to utilizing the most economic source centrally, local level generation with the help of locally available sources should also be made, reducing the pressure on limited conventional sources. Such an approach would ensure that the advantages of both the systems accrue to the government and the people.

Q. 6. What was Cripps Mission? Why did its failure result into Quit India movement? Mention briefly the major developments after this movement leading to Independence in 1947.

Ans. 6. At the outbreak of second World War in 1939, the government of India immediately joined the war without consulting the elected members of the Central legislature or any political parties. Although Congress was willing to help the forces of democracy in their struggle against fascism, but they demanded that India should be declared free, as an enslaved nation could not assist other country. In 1942, after the fall of Philippines, Indo-China, Malaya and Burma, the war came on the doorstep of India. The British government now desperately wanted the active cooperation of the Indians and with a view to secure it, sent a mission headed by a Cabinet minister, Sir Stafford Cripps, which was popularly known as Cripps Mission. Talks between Cripps Mission and the Congress failed because it wanted immediate transfer of power to the Indians while the Mission was of the view that the aim of British Policy in India was the "earliest possible realisation of self-government" in India. Indians were not satisfied with this promise for future, while the British government was not willing to yield. As a result Cripps Mission turned out to be a miserable failure.

The failure of Cripps Mission was a big disappointment also. The period from April to August 1942 witnessed several developments. While Indians still sympathised with anti-fascist and democratic forces, the situation was becoming more and more intolerable as the Japanese forces were moving closer to Indian borders. In addition, war-time shortages and price rise were bringing distress to the common man. Under such a situation, the Congress decided to take active steps to force the British to accept their demand for independence. The All India Congress Committee met at Bombay on August 8, 1942 and passed a resolution proposing the start of a non-violent mass struggle against the British, also called Quit India Movement. Gandhiji gave the famous *Mantra* of "do or die".

But next morning, before the Movement could be started, Mahatma Gandhi and various other leaders of the Congress were arrested by the government and the Congress was declared illegal. The news of arrests resulted in a spontaneous movement of protests in the country. Left leaderless, the reaction of the people was in the forms of Hartals, strikes, demonstrations and even violence. Angered by opening of fire at many a place, people at various places attacked police stations, post offices, railway stations, etc. Telephone lines were cut and in several areas of U.P., Bengal and Bombay, people set up parallel governments. Students, peasants and workers participated in big numbers. But British government crushed the movement with a heavy hand. The press was

muzzled, crowds were machine-gunned and bombed, military was called out to take over several cities and more than 10,000 people were killed in police firings and repression

After the suppression of Quit India Movement, there was hardly any activity upto 1945. But outside the country, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose formed the Indian National Army (INA) in Singapore. Japanese defeat in 1945 resulted in the defeat of INA also. Thereafter the trial of INA prisoners in 1945-46 evoked demonstrations and strikes by people all over the country which reflected the rebellious mood of Indian masses. In addition, there were large scale labour unrests across the country. Railway and Postal strikes of 1946 shook the foundation of the British government in India. Further, post-war scenario was marked by the shattering of military and economic power of the British. USA and the USSR, which emerged as two super powers after the war supported India's cause of freedom.

British government in 1946 sent a Cabinet Mission to negotiate the transfer of power to India, which suggested a plan for Indian freedom which was accepted by both Congress and Muslim League but no agreement could be reached between sharing of power by the interim government. On February 20, 1947, British Prime Minister announced that the British would quit India by June 1948. In March 1947 Lord Mountbatten came to India as Vice-roy and on the basis of his plan of partition and independence of the country, he put forth Mountbatten Plan which was accepted by all the groups and became the basis for the Indian Independence Act 1947.

Q. 7 Discuss the major social reforms movements of the second half of the 19th century. In what way did they contribute to the rise and growth of the Indian National Movement?

Ans. 7 The second-half of 19th century witnessed several religious and social reforms in the Indian society. Most of the religious reform movements contributed richly to the social reforms. Some of the major social reform movements of this period are as under:

(a) **Brahmo Samaj:** Brahmo Samaj of Raja Rammohan Roy was carried forward after 1843 by Devendranath Tagore, and Keshab Chandra Sen proped it up after 1866. This movement professed that vedic scriptures were not infallible. The movement also opposed caste system and child marriages and supported the general upliftment of women including their education and widow remarriage.

(b) **Ramkrishna Mission:** In 1896, Vivekananda set up Ramkrishna Mission. But prior to that, his religious guru Ramkrishna Paramhansa (1834-86) had preached respect for all religions and religious and social harmony. Vivekananda himself condemned caste system and emphasis of Hinduism on rituals and superstitions. He urged the people to imbibe the spirit of liberty, equality and free thinking. He was a great humanist and was shocked by the poverty, misery and sufferings of the common people of India. The Mission also opened various schools, hospitals, orphanages, libraries and dispensaries etc.

(c) **Arya Samaj:** Arya Samaj was founded in 1875 by Swami Dayanand Saraswati. Primarily a religious reform movement

aimed at reforming Hindu religion, Arya Samaj also believed in social reforms. Its tenets were against idol worship, rituals, priesthood and caste system. Swami Dayanand also favoured the study of western sciences. Arya Samajis worked actively to spread education and started a large network of schools. They were particular in upliftment of women through their education. Arya Samajis advocated social equality and promoted social solidarity by fighting the curse of untouchability.

(d) **Theosophical Society:** Main propagator of this society in India was Mrs Annie Besant. The Theosophists advocated the revival of the ancient religions of Hinduism, Buddhism and Zoroastrianism. Though this movement was not very popular, yet it glorified Indian religions and philosophy of transmigration of soul. It gave back the Indians self-confidence and sense of pride.

(e) **Aligarh Movement:** Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan founded Anglo-Oriental college in 1857 which was later converted into Aligarh Muslim University. Sir Sayyid urged the Muslims to give up medieval culture by raising the status of women in the society, spread of education particularly among women, and removal of the Purdah custom among women. He condemned the customs of polygamy and easy divorce.

(f) **Others:** There were various other social reforms movements like Servants of India Society, the Social Conference etc. which involved reforms activities like Jyotiba Phule, Justice Ranade, D.K. Karve, B.C. Pal, B.R. Ambedkar, Gopal Hari Deshmukh etc. All these reformists successfully tried to achieve the objective of emancipation of women and abolition of caste rigidities and in particular, abolition of untouchability.

These reforms movements led to regeneration of Indian society to a large extent. But at the same time their contribution to the rise and growth of the Indian National Movement was immense. The preaching of religious and social equality brought together people of all religions in India. Indians rediscovered their ancient glory due to the efforts of Annie Besant, Swami Dayanand and Swami Vivekananda. Emphasis on rising the status of women gave the women self-confidence and later, they participated actively in the freedom struggle. Spread of education made people aware that they belonged to a great nation and gave strength to their resolve to throw out the foreign rulers. Social equality and anti-casteism ideas of these movements helped the underprivileged people to join the mainstream, as the sense of belonging to this country became stronger among them.

Q. 8. Despite the ills of world recession, political instability in the country and Kargil conflict with Pakistan, Indian economy has performed fairly well in the recent past. Bring out reasons for this. Also enumerate some basic strengths of Indian economy.

Ans. 8. The past three years witnessed economic slowdown in the world economy which experienced recession-like situation. Even fast-track economies like China, South Korea, Malaysia and Indonesia experienced relatively low growth rates. In addition to the above international phenomena, Indian economy also faced political instability during the past two to three years. But the

economy has shown tremendous resilience and achieved reasonably good results.

There are certain basic strengths of the Indian economy, as a result of which even the three-month long Kargil conflict, entailing huge expenditure and diversion of resources, has not affected the performance of the economy. Some of the strengths are as under:

(a) **Strong Agricultural Base:** India has a strong agricultural base spread all over the country with majority of its population engaged in this occupation. Since there is no serious problem of marketing the agricultural produce, which is largely sold in India, this sector is the stronghold of the economy. Though still largely dependent on rains, new areas are largely being brought under irrigation and modern system of farming.

(b) **Large Industrial Base:** As already mentioned, industries have a very wide and comprehensive base in India covering almost all products and areas. Since most of the market is domestic, international fluctuations do not affect this sector largely except a few areas.

(c) **Induction of Foreign Capital:** During the past few years, sustained inflow of foreign capital in the form of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is taking place in India at the rate of \$ 2 billion to \$ 3 billion per annum. This additional investment injected from outside has helped the economy by multiplier effect.

(d) **High Savings and Investments:** During the past few decades, Indian economy has been having a net saving rate of 20 to 25 per cent which is quite high, resulting in higher level of investment, in turn. Higher internal investment sustained during the past few decades, has helped the economic activity to be higher even under adverse conditions.

(e) **Balanced Contributions to the GDP:** Upto late seventies, the primary sector was the largest contributor to the GDP, followed by industrial sector and service sector. But the positive changes during the past two decades have reversed this. Now service sector is the largest contributor to the GDP and the primary sector has the minimum contribution. Hence even if agriculture or industry lag behind in performance during a particular year due to any reason, the other sectors are there to compensate for such poor performance.

(f) **Strong Democratic Traditions:** Strong roots of democracy in India has kept the confidence of the investors high. Unlike most of the developing countries in the world where democracy is in peril at slight instability of the government, India has a well-developed democratic setup, mainly guaranteed by the positive role of several institutions like the President, the Judiciary, the Election Commission, the Parliament etc. As a result, political instability or war do not worry the investors and the market forces of demand and supply do not get dampened.

Q. 9. In 1985, out of total of 17500 workers in a cement factory, 12000 were members of a trade union. The number of women workers was 2000 of which 1750 did not belong to the trade union. In 1986, the number of Union workers increased to 15800, of which 12900 were men. On the other hand, the number of non-trade union workers in the factory fell down

to 2080 of which 1800 were men.

(a) Represent the above information in a suitable tabular form.

(b) What percentage of male workers of the cement factory did not belong to the trade union in 1985.

Ans. 9. (a) The above data can be represented in tabular form as under:

Distribution of workers in a Cement Factory, Trade Union and Non-Trade Union wise (Male/Female separately) During the years 1985 and 1986.

Years	Trade Union Workers			Non Trade-union workers			Grand Total		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
							(b+e)	(c+f)	(d+g)
1985	11750	250	12000	1750	1750	5500	15500	2000	17500
1986	12900	2900	15800	1800	280	2080	14700	3180	17880

Hint: A table in the above form should be structured on the basis of given information, in which given information is put. The remaining information is arrived at by simple arithmetical calculations. Readers are advised to practice it themselves.

Ans. 9. (b) No. of total workers in 1985 = 15500

No. of male workers who did not belong to trade union in 1985 = 3750

Percentage = $\frac{3750}{15500} \times 100 = 24.193\%$ **Ans.**

Q. 10. The following table shows the percentage distribution of total income of males in a country.

Income (in £)	Percentage of males (f)	*Cumulative frequency (C. f)	* not given in the question
Below 100	- 17.3	17.3	
100 to 199	- 11.6	28.9	
200 to 299	- 12.4	41.3	
300 to 399	- 14.5	55.8	
400 to 499	- 15.8	71.6	
500 to 599	- 12.0	83.6	
600 to 699	- 12.7	96.3	
700 and above	- 3.7	100	

(a) What percentage of males earned £ 400 and above?

(b) What percentage of males earned at least Rs 300 but less than £ 500?

Ans. 10. The answer to the above question can be given after obtaining cumulative frequency which has been shown in a separate box above.

(a) Percentage of males earned £ 400 and above

= $100 - 55.8 = 44.2\%$

Hint: Because 55.8 per cent males earned less than £ 400.

(b) Percentage of males earned at least £ 300 but

less than £ 500 = $14.5 + 15.8 = 30.3\%$

General Awareness

Questions of BSRB, Mumbai Probationary Officers' examination held on 25-7-1999

1. She is the widow of an ex-President and defeated the son of an ex-President. This statement refers to the President of:
 - (a) Israel
 - (b) Lebanon
 - (c) Scotland
 - (d) Panama
2. Kuwait parliament was in the news because:
 - (a) of crucial fight between the Liberal and Labour Party
 - (b) it gave right to vote and run for parliament to women
 - (c) Ismail Omar Gueller was elected as the new President
 - (d) All (a), (b) and (c) are true
3. Final of Cricket World Cup '99 was played between:
 - (a) Australia-India
 - (b) Australia-England
 - (c) Australia-South Africa
 - (d) None of these
4. Which of the following statements is false in reference to Scotland?
 - (a) first parliamentary elections were held in 300 years in 1999
 - (b) the first P.M. of Scotland was elected with the support of Labour Party
 - (c) Donal Dewar is the President of Scotland
 - (d) The constitutional reform in Scotland and Wales were mentioned in the election manifesto of Tony Blair
5. USA has imposed arms and ammunition sanctions on which country because of its involvement in drug trafficking?
 - (a) Pakistan
 - (b) India
 - (c) Iraq
 - (d) Iran
6. Oliver Reed was associated with which field?
 - (a) Journalism
 - (b) Acting
 - (c) Literature
 - (d) Musician
7. Bernard Bennet of France was in the news because:
 - (a) he was sacked from deputy PM's post
 - (b) he was assassinated
 - (c) he is the new foreign minister
 - (d) none of these
8. Guinea Bissau was in the news because:
 - (a) he is the new President of Papua New Guinea
 - (b) he is the new P.M. of Fiji
 - (c) he is the new President of Mauritius
 - (d) none of these
9. 'Marburg Virus' recently hit which country?
 - (a) Venezuela
 - (b) Columbia
 - (c) Malaysia
 - (d) Sri Lanka
10. Colonel Assoumani Azzali of Comoro was in the news because:
 - (a) he is the new dictator of that country
 - (b) he defeated the Labour Party
 - (c) he is the grandson of former President
 - (d) none of these
11. Article 370 of Indian Constitution is related with:
 - (a) internal disturbance in the country
 - (b) constitutional breakdown in the country
 - (c) special status to Jammu and Kashmir
 - (d) special status to Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Goa
12. Liberty Bell-7 is located in which country?
 - (a) France
 - (b) Russia
 - (c) USA
 - (d) Iraq
13. In the NATO airstrikes on Yugoslavia the embassy of _____ was hit by a NATO missile.
 - (a) India
 - (b) Pakistan
 - (c) China
 - (d) Switzerland
14. The Bus between Bangladesh and India plies from:
 - (a) Calcutta
 - (b) Aizawl
 - (c) Asansol
 - (d) West Darjeeling
15. Prince Edward was in the news recently because:
 - (a) of his marriage to Sophie R. Jones
 - (b) he is the Earl of Wessex
 - (c) he owns a film and television production company, Ardent Production
 - (d) of all the above reasons
16. George Leigh Mallory was in the news because:
 - (a) according to recent findings it is believed by some that he was the first person to conquer Mt Everest
 - (b) his body was found after 75 years
 - (c) he was the first American to climb Mount Everest
 - (d) only (a) and (b) are true
17. Murali Nair was in the news because:
 - (a) he won the Golden Camera award for debut director at the 52nd Cannes International film festival.
 - (b) he won the Golden Palm award at Cannes festival.
 - (c) he won the special award for best feature film.
 - (d) all the above are true
18. 7-scan of USA is related with:
 - (a) cardiac treatment
 - (b) eye surgery
 - (c) endoscopy
 - (d) none of these
19. "Not recommended for children" is mentioned on the:
 - (a) sweetened food
 - (b) soft drinks
 - (c) sacrine related item
 - (d) chocolates and toffees
20. Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi defeated Goran Ivansevic and J. Tanago in which tournament?

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

- (a) French Open
(b) U.S. Open
(c) German Open
(d) Wimbledon
21. INS Mysore was in the news because:
(a) it is India's second indigenously-built warship
(b) it is India's new indigenously-built aircraft carrier
(c) it is going to convert in India's first naval museum
(d) it is India's indigenously built submarine
22. Kalinga prize is associated with the:
(a) popularisation of journalism
(b) significant contribution in the field of science
(c) noted work in the field of literature
(d) creating a wave in the field of music
23. Which international leader retired from active politics recently?
(a) Helmut Kohl
(b) Nelson Mandela
(c) Boris Yeltsin
(d) Mahathir Mohammad
24. 1999 G-8 summit was held in which country?
(a) Brussels (b) Berlin
(c) Geneva (d) Cologne
25. Federation Cup Volleyball tournament was won by:
(a) Pakistan (b) India
(c) Bangladesh (d) none of these
26. In which of the following States literacy rate is lower than the national average?
(a) Orissa (b) Bihar
(c) Rajasthan (d) Uttar Pradesh
27. Ali Sardar Jafri was in the news because:
(a) he was given medal of honour by the Harvard foundation for his contribution to Urdu poetry
(b) he was given medal of honour by German Art and Culture centre
(c) he was chosen for Awadh-e-samman
(d) of all the above reasons
28. In Maharashtra which festival denotes the start of fishing season during Monsoon?
(a) Ganesh Chaturthi
(b) Anant Chaturdashi
(c) Karva Chauth
(d) None of these
29. Citrus fruits provide Vitamin:
(a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D
30. Recently in the excavations at _____ the remains of Chandela temple were found
(a) Khajuraho (b) Jaisalmer
(c) Raipur (d) Faridabad
31. The leader of Nationalist Congress Party is:
(a) Tariq Anwar
(b) Sharad Pawar
(c) Sonia Gandhi
(d) Sharad Yadav
32. Who has been appointed as the UN Human Rights Com-

missioner for East Timor?

- (a) Soli J. Sorabjee
(b) Ashok V. Desai
(c) Santosh Shunglu
(d) B.P. Singh
33. As per the IMF data the economic growth of India during the year 1999-2000 will be:
(a) 5 per cent (b) 5.5 per cent
(c) 2.2 per cent (d) 2 per cent
34. Dr C. Rangachary has penned which of the following books?
(a) India's economy
(b) Essays on Indian economy and reform
(c) Policing towards democracy
(d) RBI 1969-1999
35. Which of the following awards are mismatched?
(a) B.C. Roy—Sports
(b) B.D. Goenka—Journalism
(c) K.K. Birla foundation—Literature
(d) K.K. Birla—Sports
36. Which of the following State is the major producer of sugar in India?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Tamil Nadu
(c) Punjab (d) Gujarat
37. My Presidential Years is a book written by:
(a) Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma
(b) R. Venkataraman
(c) K.R. Naryanan
(d) Giani Zail Singh
38. Akhnoor Bridge is in which State?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Gujarat (d) Jammu and Kashmir
39. Teejan Bai is associated with which field?
(a) journalism (b) folk dance
(c) folk music (d) Balle
40. In terms of purchasing power parity theory, India ranks at:
(a) 4th (b) 3rd (c) 2nd (d) 5th
41. Polar music award is given by the government of:
(a) Germany (b) Sweden
(c) USA (d) Philippines
42. 'The Zulu' is the nickname of which cricket player:
(a) Shane Warne (b) Jacques Kallis
(c) Brian Lara (d) Lance Klusener

ANSWERS

1. (d) 2. (b) 3. (d) 4. (c)
5. none of these 6. (b) 7. (d) 8. (d) 9. (b)
10. (d) 11. (c) 12. (c) 13. (c) 14. (a) 15. (d)
16. (d) 17. (a) 18. (d) 19. (a) 20. (a) 21. (a)
22. (b) 23. (b) 24. (d) 25. (d) 26. (a) 27. (a)
28. (d) 29. (c) 30. (a) 31. (b) 32. (a) 33. (a)
34. (b) 35. (a) 36. (a) 37. (b) 38. (d) 39. (c)
40. (d) 41. (b) 42. (d)

English Language

Spotting Error (1-10)

In the following sentences, there may be an error in one part of each sentence. Find out the error and that will be your answer. In case you don't find any error, the answer will be (e).

1 Convicts and under-trials(a) have been petitioning the courts(b) to let them out(c) so that they can join with the battle (d) No error (e)

2 Let us not forget(a) that close by a thousand soldiers(b) were killed last year(c) and that peace time (d) No error (e)

3 At a time(a) when there is a crisis(b) the soldier is looking for an honour(c) a national salute for his sacrifice (d) No error (e)

4 He does not(a) subscribe with the view(b) that a fresh initiative to establish peace in the sub-continent(c) is on the cards (d) No error (e)

5 The best of Indian art(a) has not only been acquired by museums abroad(b) but also preserved and promoted(c) in a far better fashion than in the country of its original.(d) No error (e)

6 So the book detail everything(a) from the climate and accommodation(b) to the eco-system, tiger-sighting(c) and the shaky future of the animal (d) No error.(e)

7 Kanha (Tiger Reserve) has a very unusual(a) set of dedicated people(b) right from the top management upto the forest guards(c) who really are the prime protectors of the habitat.(d) No error.(e)

8. If people have(a) a love for the animal,(b) that is what is(c) going to save the tiger.(d) No error.(e)

9. You can turn a syllabus around(a) in the class room if you are a creative teacher(b) but what is frozen(c) is the mode to test and evaluation.(d) No error.(e)

10. After having risen from the ranks(a) of the Akademi over the decades(b) she was possibly stodgy and complacent(c) about her security as an employee.(d) No error.(e)

Sentence Improvement (11-15)

In the following sentences, for each underlined part, three substitutions are given. If one of them (a, b or c) is better than the underlined part, that will be your answer. If none of the substitutions improve the sentence, the answer will be (d).

11 No wonder then that media dogs him even when he is either original or funny

- (a) either original nor funny
- (b) neither original or funny
- (c) neither original nor funny
- (d) No improvement required

12 Every now and then he stirs up a controversy Isn't it?

- (a) Doesn't he?
- (b) Don't he?
- (c) Didn't he?
- (d) No improvement required

13 The blame should go to the translators who we all agree are far from satisfactory

- (a) whom all we agree
- (b) to whom we all agree
- (c) with whom we all agree
- (d) No improvement required

14 I have never tried water-skiing before but I like to have a bash on it

- (a) to having a bash at it
- (b) to have a bash at it
- (c) to have a bash with it
- (d) No improvement required

15 The servants were more of a hindrance than of help to me.

- (a) than of helpful to me
- (b) than a help to me.
- (c) than a help for me.
- (d) No improvement required

Synonyms (16-20)

In the following sentences, for each underlined word, four choices are given. You are required to choose the word or meaning that is the nearest in meaning for the underlined word.

16. He was booked by the referee for foul play.

- (a) charged
- (b) suspended
- (c) removed
- (d) warned

17 He looked aghast at the terrible sight

- (a) impressed
- (b) depressed
- (c) oppressed
- (d) horrified

18 The minister accused the union for torpedoing the negotiations.

- (a) obstructing
- (b) wrecking
- (c) facilitating
- (d) mismanaging

19 Squalor and poverty lay behind the city's glittering facade.

- (a) misleading appearance
- (b) urban appearance
- (c) outward appearance
- (d) rich appearance

20 We can safely accuse many a politician of chicanery

- (a) deception
- (b) treason
- (c) transparency
- (d) betrayal

Antonyms (21-25)

In the following sentences, for each underlined word, four options are given. You are required to choose the word that conveys opposite meaning for the underlined word

21. We must not be complacent about our security concerns.

- (a) anxious
- (b) vigilant
- (c) worried
- (d) restless

22. There is no absolute standard for beauty

- (a) reliable
- (b) robust
- (c) relative
- (d) reasonable

23. Pursuit of pleasures only is the

bane of our times.

- (a) denial
- (b) aversion
- (c) avoidance
- (d) dislike

24. The story sounds phoney to me

- (a) impressive
- (b) natural
- (c) interesting
- (d) true

25. There was not a trace of vanity in her behaviour.

- (a) modesty
- (b) charity
- (c) obedience
- (d) simplicity

Comprehension (26-35)

Read the following passages carefully and answer the questions listed below each passage. For each question, four possible answers are given. Choose the most appropriate answer from the given choices

I

Frogs are an environmental asset, especially in an agricultural country like India. They consume pests that are responsible for diseases like malaria as also those that are a threat to plants. In fact, it has been found that an adult frog consumes its own weight of insects daily and that if their population goes down the insect population goes up. What all this also means is that a decline in the frog population necessitates an increase in the use of pesticides which are a serious health hazard for all living beings.

26. Why are pests harmful?

- (a) they spread diseases
- (b) they destroy crops
- (c) they cause malaria and threaten plants
- (d) they cause panic among farmers

27. How much insects does an adult frog consume daily?

- (a) nothing definite is known
- (b) it does not eat insects at all
- (c) as many insects as it can find around
- (d) its own weight of insects

28. What happens when frog population goes down?

- (a) use of pesticides increases
- (b) health of people becomes a major problem

- (c) productivity of land decreases
- (d) the growth of plants is stunted

29. What are frogs to us?

- (a) saviours
- (b) protectors
- (c) defenders
- (d) enemies

30. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) frogs are a threat to life in urban areas
- (b) when the frog population goes up, the number of insects goes down
- (c) a frog consumes its own weight of insects
- (d) an adult frog eats its own weight of insects

II

Leaning back on the cornice, I fought to get my breath back. Constantly at the back of my mind was the fear that the cornice might break off, and my nerves were tight with suspense. But slowly I forced my way up—twisting and pressing and using every little hold. In one place I managed to force my ice-axe into a crack in the ice, and this gave me the *necessary leverage* to get over a stretch which had nothing to hold on to. And then I found a solid foothold in a hollow in the ice, and next moment I was reaching over the top of the rock and pulling myself to safety.

31. How would you describe the speaker?

- (a) a mountaineer
- (b) a hunter
- (c) a skier
- (d) an adventurer

32. What was his physical condition at that point of time?

- (a) breathless
- (b) tired
- (c) nervous
- (d) insecure

33. What was he fearing the most?

- (a) he might run short of breath
- (b) his nerves might break down
- (c) the cornice might break off
- (d) none of these

34. What does the term 'necessary leverage' stand for in the passage?

- (a) much needed relief
- (b) much needed power
- (c) much required comfort

- (d) much required peace

35. What was the outcome of the climb?

- (a) he had a feeling of fear mixed with suspense
- (b) he thanked his stars
- (c) he could hold on to the ice-axe
- (d) he safely reached over the top

Idioms (36-40)

In the following sentences, for each underlined idiom, four possible meanings are given. You are required the most appropriate meaning and that will be your answer.

36. He went to complain to the boss, but got very short shrift.

- (a) got patient hearing
- (b) got rude treatment
- (c) received warm reception
- (d) remained indifferent

37. He lost all his money gambling now he is really in queer street.

- (a) in bad company
- (b) in repentant mood
- (c) in trouble
- (d) in search of money

38. My friend gave me a cold shoulder when I needed his help the most.

- (a) showed indifference
- (b) rudely turned away
- (c) politely declined to help
- (d) treated in an unfriendly way

39. He is determined to pass the examination by hook or by crook.

- (a) by any means
- (b) by fair means
- (c) by working hard
- (d) by offering prayers

40. Ultimately the enemy had to throw in the towel in the face of our superior strategy.

- (a) admit mistake
- (b) admit defeat
- (c) confess crime
- (d) beg safe passage

Filling the blanks (41-50)

In the following passage, some spaces have been left blank. For each blank space, three words are given. Choose the most suitable word and that will be your answer.

As for humorous stories, and jokes in general, these are essentially matter of

41. (a) personal

OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

- (b) distinct
(c) individual
taste, in which each man will please himself, and few general _____
42 (a) counsels
(b) hunts
(c) ideas
can be given Though we all _____
43 (a) hate
(b) envy
(c) dislike
the speaker who has plenty of _____
44 (a) merry
(b) spicy
(c) interesting
jokes, he needs to beware of making _____
45 (a) obsessive
(b) extravagant
(c) excessive
use of his gift There is a tendency today to _____
46 (a) deliver
(b) make

- (c) concoct
after-dinner speaking a mere _____
47 (a) string
(b) collection
(c) narration
of stories, most of which may have litter to _____
48 (a) relate
(b) connect
(c) do
with the subject or with one another Even the best stories lose their charm when they are _____
49 (a) brought
(b) dragged
(c) used
in by the head and shoulders, having no connection with the subject the _____
50 (a) speaker
(b) writer
(c) host
is supposed to be dealing with

ANSWERS

- 1 (d) 'join in the battle'
- 2 (b) 'that close to a thousand soldiers'
- 3 (c) 'the soldier is look for honour'
- 4 (b) 'subscribe to the view'
- 5 (e) No error
- 6 (a) 'So the book details everything'
- 7 (c) ' to the forest guards'
- 8 (e) No error
- 9 (d) 'is the mode of testing and evaluation'
- 10 (a) 'Having risen from the ranks'
- 11 (c) 12 (a) 13 (d) 14 (b)
- 15 (b) 16 (a) 17 (d) 18 (b)
- 19 (c) 20 (a) 21 (b) 22 (c)
- 23 (c) 24 (d) 25 (a) 26 (c)
- 27 (d) 28 (a) 29 (b) 30 (d)
- 31 (a) 32 (a) 33 (c) 34 (b)
- 35 (d) 36 (b) 37 (c) 38 (d)
- 39 (a) 40 (b) 41 (c) 42 (a)
- 43 (b) 44 (a) 45 (c) 46 (b)
- 47 (a) 48 (c) 49 (b) 50 (a)

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Quantitative Aptitude

Staff Selection Commission (Combined) Preliminary Exam (Graduate Level) 1999 held on 4.7.99

1. A is thrice as good a workman as B and therefore, able to finish a job in 60 days less than B. Working together they will do it in:

- (a) 20 days (b) $22\frac{1}{2}$ days
(c) 25 days (d) 30 days

2. Two pipes A and B can fill a tank in 20 minutes and 30 minutes respectively. If both pipes are opened together, the time taken to fill the tank is:

- (a) 50 minutes (b) 12 minutes
(c) 25 minutes (d) 15 minutes

3. If 6 men and 8 boys can do a piece of work in 10 days and 26 men and 48 boys can do the same in 2 days, the time taken by 15 men and 20 boys to do the same type of work will be:

- (a) 5 days (b) 4 days (c) 6 days (d) 7 days

4. A and B can do a work in 18 and 24 days respectively. They worked together for 8 days and then A left. The remaining work was finished by B in:

- (a) 5 days (b) $5\frac{1}{3}$ days (c) 8 days (d) 10 days

5. If a man walks 20 km at 5 km/hr, he will be late by 40 minutes. If he walks at 8 km/hr, how early from the fixed time will he reach?

- (a) 15 minutes (b) 25 minutes
(c) 50 minutes (d) $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours

6. A boy rides his bicycle 10 km at an average speed of 12 km/h and again travels 12 km at an average speed of 10 km/h. His average speed for the entire trip is approximately.

- (a) 10.4 km/h (b) 10.8 km/h
(c) 11.0 km/h (d) 12.2 km/h

7. A train 180 m long moving at the speed of 20 m/sec overtakes a man moving at a speed of 10 m/sec in the same direction. The train passes the man in:

- (a) 6 sec (b) 9 sec (c) 18 sec (d) 27 sec

8. The distance between two cities A and B is 330 km. A train starts from A at 8 a.m. and travels towards B at 60 km/h. Another train starts from B at 9 a.m. and travels towards A at 75 km/h. At what time do they meet?

- (a) 10 a.m. (b) 10 : 30 a.m.
(c) 11 a.m. (d) 11 : 30 a.m.

9. In covering a certain distance, the speeds of A and B are in the ratio of 3 : 4. A takes 30 minutes more than B to reach the destination. The time taken by A to reach the destination is:

- (a) 1 hour (b) $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours
(c) 2 hours (d) $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours

A survey of film-watching habits of people living in 5 cities I, II, III, IV and V is summarised below. The column (1) gives percentage of film-watchers in each city who see only one film a week. The column (2) gives the total number of film-watchers who see more than one film per week.

Read the table and answer questions 10 to 14.

City	(1)	(2)
I	50	3200
II	30	3500
III	65	7000
IV	25	5400
V	80	2900

10. How many film-watchers in city II see only one film a week?

- (a) 900 (b) 1500 (c) 1600 (d) 3200

11. Which city has the highest number of film-watchers who see only one film a week?

- (a) I (b) II (c) III (d) IV

12. The city with the lowest number of film-watchers is:

- (a) I (b) II (c) IV (d) V

13. The city with the highest number of film-watchers is:

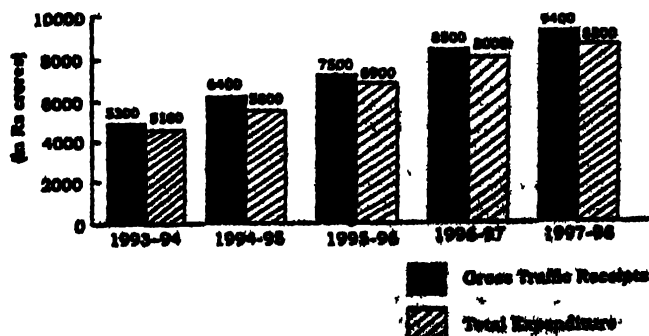
- (a) I (b) V (c) IV (d) III

14. The total number of all film-watchers in the five cities who see only one film a week is:

- (a) 31100 (b) 29600 (c) 28600 (d) 28300

Questions 15 to 19 are based on the following bar graph. Read the graph and answer the questions.

Finances of XYZ Railways



15. What is the percentage increase in the gross traffic receipts in 1995-96 as compared to 1993-94?

- (a) 33.9% (b) 41.5% (c) 20.7% (d) 17%

16. If profit = gross traffic receipts - total expenditure, then in 1996-97, what percentage of gross traffic receipts is the profit made?

- (a) 5.9% (b) 6.4% (c) 7.2% (d) 8%

17. In which year was the profit as a percentage of gross traffic receipts the highest?

- (a) 1997-98 (b) 1996-97
(c) 1995-96 (d) 1994-95

18. In order to make a profit of 10%, what should have been the gross traffic receipts (in Rs crores) in 1994-95, total expenditure remaining the same?

- (a) 5,667 (b) 5,876 (c) 6,444 (d) 7,667

19. By what amount (in Rs crores) has the expenditure increased over the period 1993-94 to 1997-98?

- (a) 4,100 (b) 3,900 (c) 3,850 (d) 3,700

20. Simplify

$$1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{2}{2 + \frac{3}{1 + \frac{4}{5}}}}$$

- (a) $1\frac{11}{17}$ (b) $1\frac{6}{11}$
(c) $1\frac{5}{17}$ (d) $2\frac{11}{17}$

21. Assume that

$$\sqrt{13} = 3.605 \text{ (approximately)}$$

$$\sqrt{130} = 11.40 \text{ (approximately)}$$

Find the value of

$$\sqrt{1.3} + \sqrt{1300} + \sqrt{0.013}$$

- (a) 36.164 (b) 37.304
(c) 36.304 (d) 37.164

22. On simplification of

$$\frac{(2.644)^2 - (2.356)^2}{0.288}$$

we get

- (a) 1 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6

23. Evaluate:

$$\frac{9|3-5| - 5|4| + 10}{-3(5) - 2 \times 4 + 2}$$

- (a) $\frac{9}{10}$ (b) $-\frac{8}{17}$
(c) $-\frac{16}{19}$ (d) $\frac{4}{7}$

24. By how much does $\sqrt{12} + \sqrt{18}$ exceed $\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}$?

- (a) $3(\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2})$ (b) $2(\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2})$

- (c) $\sqrt{3} + 2\sqrt{2}$ (d) $\sqrt{2} - 4\sqrt{3}$

25. The value of:

$$\sqrt{5+2\sqrt{6}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{5+2\sqrt{6}}} \text{ is.}$$

- (a) $2\sqrt{2}$ (b) $2\sqrt{3}$
(c) $1 + \sqrt{5}$ (d) $\sqrt{5} - 1$

26. The value of $(243)^{0.16} \times (243)^{0.04}$ is equal to

- (a) 0.16 (b) 3
(c) $\frac{1}{3}$ (d) 0.04

27. The simplification of:

$$\frac{0.06 \times 0.06 \times 0.06 - 0.05 \times 0.05 \times 0.05}{0.06 \times 0.06 + 0.06 \times 0.05 + 0.05 \times 0.05} \text{ gives:}$$

- (a) 0.01 (b) 0.001
(c) 0.1 (d) 0.02

28. $1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{14} + \frac{1}{28}$ is equal to:

- (a) 2 (b) 2.5 (c) 3 (d) 3.5

29. $5 - [4 - \{3 - (3 - 3 - 6)\}]$ is equal to:

- (a) 10 (b) 6 (c) 4 (d) 0

30. If the square root of 841 is 29, then $\sqrt{0.00000841}$ equal to

- (a) 0.029 (b) 0.0029 (c) 0.00029 (d) 0.29

31. The value of $\sqrt{2^4} + \sqrt[3]{64} + \sqrt[4]{2^8}$ is:

- (a) 12 (b) 16 (c) 18 (d) 24

32. If $a * b = 2a - 3b + ab$, then $3 * 5 + 5 * 3$ is equal to:

- (a) 22 (b) 24 (c) 26 (d) 28

33. What is the square root of 0.09?

- (a) 0.3 (b) 0.03 (c) 0.003 (d) 3.0

34. Simplify:

$$\left[\sqrt[3]{6\sqrt{5^9}} \right]^4 \left[\sqrt[6]{3\sqrt{5^9}} \right]^4$$

- (a) 5^2 (b) 5^4 (c) 5^8 (d) 5^{12}

35. If $27^{2x-1} = (243)^3$, then the value of x is:

- (a) 3 (b) 6 (c) 7 (d) 9

36. $\sqrt{\frac{0.49}{0.25}} + \sqrt{\frac{0.81}{0.36}}$ is equal to:

- (a) $7\frac{9}{10}$ (b) $2\frac{9}{10}$
(c) $\frac{9}{10}$ (d) $9\frac{9}{10}$

37. If $\log(0.57) = \bar{1}.756$, then the value of:

$$\log 57 + \log(0.57)^3 + \log \sqrt{0.57} \text{ is:}$$

- (a) 0.902 (b) 1.902
(c) $\bar{1}.756$ (d) $\bar{2}.146$

38. Which of the following fractions is the smallest?

$$\frac{7}{6}, \frac{7}{9}, \frac{4}{5}, \frac{5}{7}$$

(a) $\frac{7}{6}$ (b) $\frac{7}{9}$ (c) $\frac{4}{5}$ (d) $\frac{5}{7}$

39. $9^6 + 1$ when divided by 8, would leave a remainder of:

(a) 0 (b) 1 (c) 2 (d) 3

40. The square root of a positive number less than 100 lies between:

(a) 0 and 1000 (b) 0 and 10
(c) -10 and 10 (d) -100 and 100

41. $\frac{1}{4}$ of a tank holds 135 litres of water. What part of the tank is full if it contains 180 litres of water?

(a) $\frac{2}{5}$ (b) $\frac{2}{3}$

(c) $\frac{1}{3}$ (d) $\frac{1}{6}$

42. The HCF and LCM of two numbers are 13 and 455 respectively. If one of the numbers lies between 75 and 125, then, that number is:

(a) 78 (b) 91
(c) 104 (d) 117

43. The LCM of two numbers is 864 and their HCF is 144. If one of the numbers is 288, the other number is

(a) 576 (b) 1296
(c) 432 (d) 144

44. What is two-thirds of half of 369?

(a) 123 (b) 246
(c) $246\frac{3}{8}$ (d) $271\frac{3}{4}$

45. A boy was asked to multiply a certain number by 50. He multiplied it by 30 and got his answer less than the correct one by 400. The number to be multiplied was:

(a) 10 (b) 20
(c) 30 (d) 40

46. 0.6 of a number is equal to 0.08 of another number. The ratio of the two numbers will be:

(a) 3 : 4 (b) 4 : 3
(c) 2 : 15 (d) 2 : 9

47. $\frac{1}{5}$ of a number exceeds $\frac{1}{7}$ of the same number by 10.

The number is:

(a) 125 (b) 150
(c) 175 (d) 200

48. A boy was asked to find the value of $\frac{3}{8}$ of a sum of money. Instead of multiplying the sum by $\frac{3}{8}$ he divided it by $\frac{3}{8}$ and then his answer exceeded by Rs 55. Find the correct answer.

(a) Rs 9 (b) Rs 24

(c) Rs 64 (d) Rs 1,320

49. The sum of three consecutive odd natural numbers each divisible by 3 is 72. What is the largest among them?

(a) 21 (b) 24 (c) 27 (d) 36

50. If *381 is divisible by 11, then the digit at the place of * is:

(a) 0 (b) 1 (c) 5 (d) 7

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (b) Let the time taken by A to do a job be x days

∴ B takes 3x days to do the same job

$$\therefore 3x - x = 60 \Rightarrow x = 30$$

$$\text{Work done by A in 1 day} = \frac{1}{30}$$

$$\text{B's one day's work} = \frac{1}{90}$$

$$\text{Work done by both in 1 day} = \frac{1}{30} + \frac{1}{90} = \frac{4}{90} = \frac{2}{45}$$

$$\therefore \text{They together will do the job in } \frac{45}{2} = 22\frac{1}{2} \text{ days}$$

$$2. (b) \text{ Work done by both pipes in 1 min} = \frac{1}{20} + \frac{1}{30} = \frac{1}{12}$$

∴ Both pipes together can fill the tank in 12 min

3. (b) Work done by 6 men and 8 boys in 10 days = Work done by 26 men and 48 boys in 2 days

$$\therefore 60M + 80B = 52M + 96B \text{ or } 8M = 16B \text{ or } 1M = 2B$$

$$6M + 8B = 6 \times 2 + 8 = 20B, 15M + 20B = 15 \times 2 + 20 = 50B$$

$$20 \text{ boys can do a job in 10 days}$$

$$\therefore 50 \text{ boys can do a job in } \frac{10 \times 20}{50} = 4 \text{ days}$$

$$4. (b) (A + B)'s 8 \text{ days' work} = 8\left(\frac{1}{18} + \frac{1}{24}\right) = \frac{7}{9}$$

$$\therefore \text{Remaining work} = 1 - \frac{7}{9} = \frac{2}{9}$$

B can do a job in 24 days

$$\therefore \text{He will do } \frac{2}{9} \text{ of job in } 24 \times \frac{2}{9} = \frac{16}{3} = 5\frac{1}{3} \text{ days}$$

$$5. (c) T = \frac{D}{S} = \frac{20}{5} = 4 \text{ hrs}$$

$$\text{Actual time} = 4 - \frac{40}{60} = \frac{10}{3} \text{ hrs}$$

$$\text{If speed} = 8 \text{ km/hr, time taken} = \frac{20}{8} = \frac{5}{2} \text{ hrs}$$

$$\text{He reaches early from the fixed time} = \frac{10}{3} - \frac{5}{2} = \frac{5}{6}$$

$$= \frac{5}{6} \times 60 = 50 \text{ min}$$

6. (b) $T = \frac{D}{S}$ Total time = $\frac{10}{12} + \frac{12}{10} = \frac{61}{30}$

Total distance = 22 km

Average speed = $22 \times \frac{30}{61} = 10.8$ km/hr

7. (c) Relative speed = $20 - 10 = 10$ m/sec (If moving in the same direction, we subtract the speeds)

Reqd. time = $\frac{180}{10} = 18$ sec.

- 8 (c) Distance covered by A in 1 hr = 60 km

ATS $60 + 60t + 75t = 350 \Rightarrow t = 2$ hrs

$\therefore$ They meet at 11 a.m.

9. (c) Ratio of speeds = 3 : 4

$\therefore$ Ratio of time taken = 4 : 3

Let the time taken by A & B be $4x$ hrs & $3x$ hrs resp

A.T.S $4x - 3x = \frac{30}{60} \Rightarrow x = \frac{1}{2}$

$\therefore$ Time taken by A = $4x = 4 \times \frac{1}{2} = 2$ hrs

- 10 (b) In city II, 30 people see only 1 film

$\therefore$ 70 people see more than 1 film per week

$\therefore$ No. of people who see only 1 film

$= \frac{30}{70} \times 3500 = 1500$

11. (c) In city I, no. of film watchers who see only 1 film

$= \frac{50}{50} \times 3200 = 3200$

In city II = 1500

In city III reqd. no. of people seeing only 1 film

$= \frac{65}{35} \times 7000 = 13000$

In city V reqd. no. of people seeing only 1 film

$= \frac{80}{20} \times 2900 = 11600$

12. (b) Film watchers in city I = $3200 \times 2 = 6400$

Film watchers in city II = $\frac{100}{70} \times 3500 = 5000$

Film watchers in city III = $\frac{100}{35} \times 7000 = 20000$

Film watchers in city IV = $\frac{100}{75} \times 5400 = 7200$

Film watchers in city V = $\frac{100}{20} \times 2900 = 14500$

Ans. City II

13. (d) City III has highest no. of film watchers

14. (a) In city IV, no. of people seeing only 1 film

$= \frac{25}{75} \times 5400 = 1800$

Reqd no. of people of all cities who see only 1 film

$= 3200 + 1500 + 13000 + 11600 + 1800 = 31100$

15. (b) Reqd % increase in gross profit receipts

$= \frac{7500 - 5300}{5300} \times 100 = 41.5\%$

16 (a) Reqd% = $\frac{8500 - 8000}{8500} \times 100 = 5.9$

- 17 (d)

18 (c) $\frac{x - 5800}{x} \times 100 = 10 \Rightarrow x = 6444$ (in crores)

19 (d) $8800 - 5100 = 3700$

20 (a) $1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{2}{2 + \frac{3}{\frac{5}{2 + \frac{5}{3}}}}} = 1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{2}{2 + \frac{5}{3}}} = 1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{2}{\frac{11}{3}}} = 1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{6}{11}} = 1 + \frac{1}{\frac{17}{11}} = 1 + \frac{11}{17} = 1\frac{11}{17}$

21. (b) $\sqrt{13} + \sqrt{1300} + \sqrt{0.013}$

$= \sqrt{\frac{13}{10} \times \frac{10}{10}} + 10\sqrt{13} + \sqrt{\frac{13}{1000} \times \frac{10}{10}}$

$= \frac{1}{10} \sqrt{130} + 10\sqrt{13} + \frac{\sqrt{130}}{100}$

$= 10\sqrt{13} + \frac{11}{100} \sqrt{130}$

$= 10 \times 3.605 + \frac{11}{100} \times 11.40 = 37.304$

22 (c) $\frac{(2.644 - 2.356)(2.644 + 2.356)}{0.288} = \frac{.288 \times 5}{.288} = 5$

$[a^2 - b^2 = (a - b)(a + b)]$

23. (c) $\frac{9 \times 2 - 5 \times 4 + 10}{-3 \times 5 - 2 \times 4 + 2} = \frac{18 - 20 + 10}{-15 - 2 \times 2}$ $|x| = |-x|$

$= \frac{18 - 2}{-15 - 4} = \frac{16}{-19}$ $|-2| = 2$

$= \frac{16}{-19}$ $|4| = 4$

24. (c) $\sqrt{12} + \sqrt{18} - (\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}) = 2\sqrt{3} + 3\sqrt{2} - \sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2}$

$= \sqrt{3} + 2\sqrt{2}$

25. (a) $5 + 2\sqrt{6} = 3 + 2 + 2\sqrt{6}$

$= (\sqrt{3})^2 + (\sqrt{2})^2 + 2 \times \sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{2} = (\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})^2$

$\therefore \sqrt{5 + 2\sqrt{6}} = \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}$

$\sqrt{5 + 2\sqrt{6}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{5 + 2\sqrt{6}}} = \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}}$

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

- $$= \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}} \times \frac{\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2}}$$
- $$= \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2} - \frac{\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2}}{(\sqrt{3})^2 - (\sqrt{2})^2}$$
- $$= \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2} - \frac{(\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2})}{1} = 2\sqrt{2}$$
26. (b) $(243)^{0.16} \times (243)^{0.04} = (243)^{0.16 + 0.04}$
 $= (243)^2 = (243)^{\frac{1}{5}} = (3^5)^{\frac{1}{5}} = 3$
27. (a) $\frac{a^3 - b^3}{a^2 + ab + b^2} = a - b = .06 - .05 = .01$
28. (a)
29. (a) $5 - [4 - \{3 - (-6)\}] = 5 - [4 - \{3 + 6\}]$
 $= 5 - [4 - 9] = 5 + 5 = 10$
30. (b) $\sqrt{841} = 29, \sqrt{.00000841} = \sqrt{\frac{841}{100000000}} = \frac{\sqrt{841}}{\sqrt{100000000}}$
 $= \frac{29}{10000} = 0.0029$
31. (a) $\sqrt{2^4} + \sqrt[3]{64} + \sqrt[4]{2^8} = 2^{\frac{4}{2}} + (4^3)^{\frac{1}{3}} + 2^{8 \times \frac{1}{4}}$
 $= 2^2 + 4 + 2^2 = 12$
32. (a) $a*b = 2a - 3b + ab, 3*5 = 2 \times 3 - 3 \times 5 + 3 \times 5 = 6$
 $5*3 = 2 \times 5 - 3 \times 3 + 5 \times 3 = 16$
 $\therefore$ Reqd sum = 22
33. (a) $\sqrt{.09} = 0.3$
34. (b) $5^{9 \times \frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{3} \times 4} \times 5^{9 \times \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{1}{6} \times 4} = 5^2 \times 5^2 = 5^4$
35. (a) $(3^3)^{2x-1} = (3^5)^3 \Rightarrow 3^{6x-3} = 3^{15} \Rightarrow 6x-3 = 15 \Rightarrow x = 3$
36. (b) $\frac{7}{5} + \frac{9}{6} = 2\frac{9}{10}$
37. (a) $\log 57 + \log (0.57)^3 + \log \sqrt{0.57}$
 $= \log .57 \times 10^2 + 3 \log .57 + \frac{1}{2} \log .57$
 $= \log .57 + \log 10^2 + \frac{7}{2} \log .57$
 $= \frac{9}{2} \log .57 + \log 10^2 = \frac{9}{2} \times 1.756 + 2 \log 10$
 $= \frac{9}{2} (2 + 1.756) + 2 \times 1 = -9 + 7.902 + 2 = 0.902$
38. (d) $\frac{7}{6} = 1.166..., \frac{7}{9} = .77..., \frac{4}{5} = .8, \frac{5}{7} = .714$
 Smallest fraction = $\frac{5}{7}$
39. (c) $x^n - 1$ is divisible by $x - 1$

$\therefore 9^6 + 1 = 9^6 - 1 + 2$ when divided by $(9 - 1)$, $R = 2$
 $\therefore 9^6 - 1$ is divisible by $9 - 1$ i.e. by 8

40. (b) $\sqrt{100} = 10$
 Square root of a positive no. less than 100 lies between 0 and 10
41. (c) Full capacity = 135×4
 $\therefore$ Reqd part = $\frac{180}{4 \times 135} = \frac{1}{3}$
 HCF = 13
42. (b) Let the nos. be $13x, 13y$
 Product of two nos. = HCF $\times$ LCM
 $13x \times 13y = 13 \times 455$
 $\therefore xy = 35 = 5 \times 7$ or 1×35
 Nos. are $13 \times 1, 13 \times 35$ or $13 \times 5, 13 \times 7$
 91 lies between 75 and 125 $\therefore$ Ans. = B
43. (c) Other no. = $\frac{H.C.F. \times L.C.M.}{\text{One no.}} = \frac{144 \times 864}{288} = 432$
44. (a) $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{1}{2} \times 369 = 123$
45. (b) $50x - 30x = 400 \Rightarrow x = 20$
46. (c) $.6x = .08y \Rightarrow \frac{x}{y} = \frac{2}{15}, x : y = 2 : 15$
47. (c) $\frac{1}{5}x - \frac{1}{7}x = 10 \Rightarrow x = 175$
48. (b) $\frac{8}{3}x - \frac{3}{8}x = 55 \Rightarrow x = 24$
49. (c) $3x + 3(x + 1) + 3(x + 2) = 72 \Rightarrow x = 7$
 $\therefore$ Largest no. = $3(x + 2) = 3(7 + 2) = 27$
50. (d) *381 sum of digits at odd places = $1 + 3 = 4$
 Sum of digits at even places = $x + 8$
 Diff. $x + 8 - 4 = x + 4$
 No. is divisible by 11 if diff. = $x + 4$ is divisible by 11
 Clearly $x = 7$

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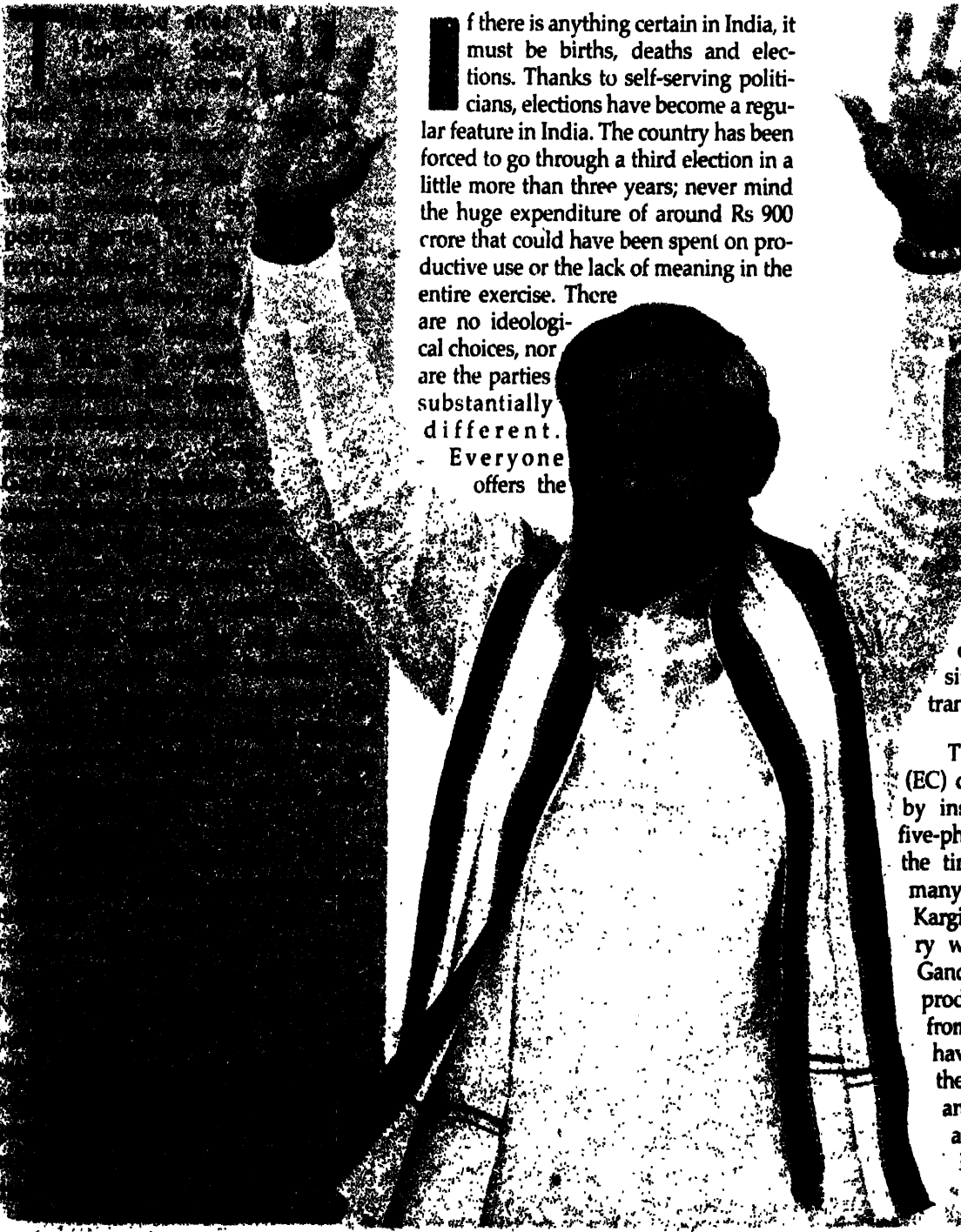
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Elections 99

NDA Returns Stronger

The longest election in Indian history is finally over



If there is anything certain in India, it must be births, deaths and elections. Thanks to self-serving politicians, elections have become a regular feature in India. The country has been forced to go through a third election in a little more than three years; never mind the huge expenditure of around Rs 900 crore that could have been spent on productive use or the lack of meaning in the entire exercise. There are no ideological choices, nor are the parties substantially different.

Everyone offers the

same things—secularism, economic reforms, welfare—but delivers none. If the BJP's *hindutva* had worn off and was nowhere to be heard this election, the Congress tried hard to invoke the sacrifices made by the Gandhi family in the past. The voter was simply weary. None of the promises made by the parties hinged even remotely to everyday concerns like availability of drinking water, our ever-increasing population, deterioration in law and order, or the sorry situation in education, transport, health.

The Election Commission (EC) contributed to the fatigue by insisting on a prolonged, five-phase polling schedule. By the time the process finished, many issues were forgotten. Kargil became a distant memory while the issue of Sonia Gandhi's foreign origin simply produced a bored response from the people. The EC may have thought that the longer the event, it would be fair and free but failed to achieve this objective. Every phase was marred by violence, the last and concluding part alone

accounting for the loss of 23 lives. Some 700 companies of paramilitary forces were used, the bulk of them in Bihar, but even then the elections were not peaceful in the State.

The overriding concern among most voters was the pause in economic activity that the elections had forced. The past few years had shown that people could become rich in a liberalised economic environment, and the government just did not matter. Having passed through a slowdown, the economy needed some quick measures through which it would get a boost and the elections were unnecessarily slowing down the process. By the time the results came, it seemed immaterial who won, but the nation did heave a sigh of relief that the BJP-led alliance had managed to scrape a majority. Would it be able to hold the alliance together this time?

Mandate with a message

The Bharatiya Janata Party has managed to keep its seats and has got a majority, thanks to its 24-party coalition, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Sonia Gandhi won a seat for herself in Parliament but had led her Congress party to its worst-ever defeat, getting a little over 130 seats. The BJP is back in power, which ensures a continuity of policies taken up by the government. In a way, the voter punished those who had brought the previous government down. The BJP was vindicated, having lost the vote of confidence by just one vote last time. Hopefully, its government may last longer this time.

The 1999 verdict is ambiguous. The voter has not given the BJP an absolute majority, though the Congress received a drubbing because of its faulty policies. If the BJP expected the people to reward it for the nuclear bombs, the Lahore bus ride and the Kargil episode, it was mistaken. A play of local factors has resulted in the BJP marginally improving its previous tally of 182 seats. In Uttar Pradesh, which has been the party's strength for some time, it was booted out. This was not a matter of anti-incumbency but shows that local factors, including caste-

Winners and losers

The results have shown a mixed bag of results. Atal Behari Vajpayee won from Lucknow by a margin of 1,23,624 votes while former Home Minister L K Advani won by 1,88,927 votes from Gandhinagar in Gujarat. Sonia Gandhi won both from Bellary and Amethi. In Mumbai, Shiv Sena was the winner along with Sharad Pawar, who had earlier been expelled from the Congress. Mamta Banerjee of Trinamool Congress won the Calcutta seat by over 2 lakh votes. BJP ally DMK leader Murali Manjunath won from Madras. Chandrababu Naidu of the Telugu Desam won from Andhra Pradesh and with 29 MPs, became the biggest coalition partner of the BJP.

Among the prominent losers were former finance minister Manmohan Singh. The media had built up his image but the people would have nothing to do with a spent Congress force. BJP leader Sushma Swaraj fought valiantly in Bellary but lost to Sonia Gandhi. Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda too had to bite dust. A surprise loss was that of former Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav from the Madhepura constituency. He had projected himself as the messiah of the downtrodden but people were not in a mood to be taken in by him. The electorate showed that it was willing to see beyond the rhetoric only to find an arrogant man accused of corruption who thought that the electorate could be taken for granted.

based power play, were not appreciated by the voter. In Rajasthan, the promise of reservation for the Jats helped the party, while in Punjab and Haryana, local factors played their part. In Punjab, Prakash Singh Badal's SAD was routed. In Maharashtra, the Congress suffered major losses as a result of the ill-conceived move of the party to sack party leaders like Sharad Pawar.

The Congress must analyse the losses it suffered in Maharashtra, Andhra

Pradesh and Rajasthan. There was much hype about the 'Sonia factor' and people flocked to see Priyanka Gandhi, who was said to be emerging as a natural leader, but the party could not get even the seats it had got under Narasimha Rao or Sitaram Kesri. The party still has a lot of goodwill but that is shrinking under questionable policies followed by it. People were shocked when the Congress had stepped in to save the government of Laloo Prasad Yadav in Bihar, nor were they in a mood to forgive the humiliation meted out to popular leaders like Sharad Pawar and P.A. Sangma. Finally, having brought the last government down in connivance with Jayalalitha and forcing a needless election, was something the voter was not willing to forget.

The mandate thus carries a strong message to leaders and that is: "do your job, do not play games." Excepting in a few States, people voted for change. In States where games were played—Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka—the leaders have been voted out, forming what is

The 1999 verdict is ambiguous. The voter has not given the BJP an absolute majority, though the Congress received a drubbing because of its faulty policies.

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known as the anti-incumbency factor.

Anti-incumbency factor

The anti-incumbency factor (known in the US as to "throw the rascals out") does play a major role in India. The mass of Indian voters, a majority of whom live in villages, small towns and slum areas, are very directly concerned with getting some material benefits from the government. Some of the needs are genuine: such as getting facilities for drinking water, sanitation, a school in a village. Others, however, have been generated for pernicious reasons such as caste-based reservations, benefits of jobs or getting subsidies or any other booty from the government.

The people vote for local leaders to get any of the benefits. The political power play, on the other hand, prevents the local leader from doing anything. Once elected, the leaders have to toe the line that their party tells them to. The Members of Parliament prefer to spend

more time in Delhi than meeting people in their constituencies, which becomes a liability. They are helpless in getting developmental funds from the Centre. Many problems, like providing drinking water, sanitation and increasing population, defy solutions. If they do anything, they line their own pockets, hoping to get re-imbursement for the expenditure they may have incurred during the elections.

The leaders are thus quickly discredited in the eyes of the people, who find their hopes have not been fulfilled. Thus, they wait for the next elections to throw the leaders out. This has been happening in many States of the country. If it is BJP in one State today, it is almost certain to be Congress the next time around, and vice versa. To a great extent, this has happened in the 1999 elections too. The NDA swept Delhi and Haryana, but was wiped out in Punjab. It returned to power in Rajasthan but faced trouble in Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. The Congress cut a sorry figure in Orissa and Delhi, where it earlier held power.

Increasingly in the elections, local

issues get far more importance than national issues. Leaders may bemoan the fact they do not get a second chance but the fact is that most of them are out of touch with the grassroot reality. If half of the electorate does not have basic amenities like electricity, roads and water, the other half is fed up of corruption and lack of governance. The people thus want their own person at the helm of affairs rather than someone who plays power games in Delhi. That is the reason that the anti-incumbency factor has become important in every election.

There are, however, some exceptions to this rule. If the leader becomes popular and is seen by the voter to do something for the constituency, he will almost certainly get re-elected. The Congress under Indira Gandhi witnessed that, and to some extent Laloo Prasad Yadav in Bihar has enjoyed that too. Even such leaders are in danger of being thrown out when the faith of the people is lost, as Laloo Prasad Yadav has discovered this time. At the same time, the voter does reward sincerity of purpose.

Changes in the EC

There is a task ahead for the Election Commission also. Successive Commissioners want to outdo each other to show that free and fair polls are being conducted. The 1999 election thus became a 5-week affair in which people simply lost interest. Many of the initial issues were forgotten. Ways have to be found to ensure that elections are held speedily and results are announced quickly.

The use of electronic voting machines has to be welcomed as huge savings were made in printing of ballot papers. These machines not only help in computing results

easily but also do away with dangers of booth capturing and bogus votes. Electronic machines should be introduced in all constituencies, particularly in areas like Bihar where such things are common.

The country has been saved from another bout of instability and the latest election does show that elections are becoming more personality oriented. At the national level, it was Vaipayee vs Sonia, though at regional level, local issues pertain. This is a healthy sign. Further, alliances have been announced before the elections, so that the voter knows who is he voting for. This prevents the trading of MPs that

we have seen in the past.

A major change that the election system needs is to change the basis of representation. At present it is on the basis of population. This means that the most populated states of UP and Bihar send the maximum MPs to the Centre. But these states are also the least developed. Caste factors are exploited by the leaders to avoid this, representation should be made on the basis of development parameters in the state, such as literacy, women empowerment and infant mortality rates. If we get more

MPs from the developed states in Parliament, perhaps the rest of the country can be changed too. In this way, states will be encouraged to invest more in human resources and take up developmental works. The situation in Laloo Prasad Yadav's Bihar, could be improved through this method. However, since this calls for a change in the Constitution the idea may not be implementable, but it is worth giving a thought.



The example of Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra Pradesh shows that good governance can overcome the anti-incumbency factor. It is not an iron law. It is hardly surprising that the States which have not shown an anti-incumbency trends in different degrees—Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh—have a better track record of delivering results than the other States. The message, therefore, is clear: perform, or get out.

A Question on Stability

The Congress has been harping on the stability factor. Indeed, the question uppermost in the minds of the people is, how stable will the coalition of 24 parties of different temperaments be this time? The question is legitimate, since the earlier 15-party alliance had collapsed. In the previous episode, we saw alliance partners Jayalalitha and Mamta Banerjee blowing hot and cold, trying to blackmail the Central government at all stages. In the early stages, Prime Minister Vajpayee's role had been reduced to that of a school-teacher, trying to please sulking school children each having different demands. Now that the BJP depends more on its coalition partners, will things be any different? Already, leaders like Chautala are questioning the decision to raise diesel prices. Will the government be allowed to function this time?

Though it is difficult to make predictions, there are three reasons why the coalition this time could be successful. The first is the fact that all leaders are scared to go to the polls again, especially due to the fact that most of them may not get re-elected, thanks to the anti-incumbency factor. They may threaten and pull, but will not try to bring down the government. Last time it was a desperate Jayalalitha who wanted to avoid standing trial in the many corruption charges against her, who brought down the government. All the actors in the toppling drama—Jayalalitha, Subramaniam Swamy, Saifuddin Soz—have been punished by the voter. Hopefully, this time there would be no alliance partner desperate enough to force another poll on the people.

Secondly, the Congress would not be interested in playing power games this time as it has already been punished once. In any case, there is no way that it can form an alternative government, even if it decides to topple the government once again. The third reason why the new government would survive is the fact that the coalition partners are mature enough to understand that stability is what the people demand. In the last Lok Sabha, the BJP depended on the mercurial Jayalalitha. This time, the biggest coalition partner is Chandrababu Naidu. He is not a maverick and will certainly not rock the boat. Because of these factors, there are chances that the coalition this time may survive the entire term. For the sake of the nation, it is hoped that it does.

The Sonia non-factor

The voters may have overlooked Sonia's foreign origins but the Congress party now has to look at the causes why it has been annihilated. Last time, a whirlwind campaign tour by Sonia Gandhi has prevented the BJP getting more seats than it got, but this time, the gloss over Sonia had worn off. Earlier she had remained aloof, giving the impression that she was above dirty politics, but the last year had shown her to be as power hungry as anyone else. After toppling the government, she had chosen to tie up with Jayalalitha, a leader who was involved in many corruption cases. As she became more visible, her lack of judgement began to show. The attempt to save the Rabri Devi government in Bihar and later the sacking of important leaders from the party, showed her to be no different from any scheming Indian politician. The voter may have forgiven her for reading Hindi speeches in a pronounced Italian accent, but she is still to be accepted as a politician herself.

The results

show that the Sonia factor has been blunted. The Congress party faces the worst-ever rout and now the party must introspect to see how it can reinvent itself. For one, the "new" BJP is as secular as anyone else, having given up its divisive agenda in favour of consensus among coalition parties, so the secularism platform has been hijacked. The economic agenda has similarly been hijacked, and the BJP does not talk of *swadeshi* any more. In addition, it has managed to portray itself as much more determined and can try out bold new ideas. The nuclear explosions last year and the Lahore bus journey could be classified in this category.

The Congress thus has a big task ahead. It must see how it can reinvent itself to appear different from BJP. It needs a powerful new idea, as both secularism and stability have been eroded. Further, the party has to learn to tolerate dissent. This has been a traditionally weak area since the time of Mrs Indira Gandhi. If the Congress cannot find a way to reinvent itself, it may find itself marginalised in Indian politics.

At the same time, the BJP cannot rest on the results. The people look to it for steady progress. It must not fail the people this time and take up the tasks ahead in full earnest. The people of India have given the stability to the BJP which it lacked and now want results. It did well to keep away its ideological baggage and now must stick to the task of governance. It should not get involved in divisive issues such as Ram *mandir*, if it is to retain the people's confidence. There is a great opportunity for the BJP to cash





in on the mandate and show itself to be a modern, firm party

Cost of Elections

The business of governing India is increasingly becoming expensive. The 13th Lok Sabha has cost the nation upwards of Rs 1000 crore, including the cost of elections and the amounts spent by different parties. The total expenditure incurred for the 1998 elections was Rs 626.40 crore. This is almost 100 times of the Rs 10 crore that was spent in the 1952 elections. With lack of stability, frequent elections would spell ruin for the economy. Thankfully, the 1999 verdict promises some stability.

The electorate is 600 million and includes over 4500 candidates and over 9 lakh polling stations. A contingent 5 million staff, supplemented by paramilitary staff, makes it a huge exercise. Some 1.1 million NCC students were also deployed on security duty at polling booths. As for parties, campaigning is an expensive affair, with helicopters and vehicles being hired by many regional parties.

Poll expenses per candidate have been increased from Rs 4.5 lakh to Rs 15 lakh but it is believed that the parties and their supporters would be spending

more than the limit. Last time, the EC had appointed election observers for the first time to keep a tab on the money being spent by candidates. The Indrajit Gupta committee had recommended state funding of elections, which has not been implemented.

Holding of frequent elections does not mean that democracy is functioning well. It means that there is a flaw in the system. Apart from the heavy expenditure, the country suffers on account of instability. That is what the politicians have to understand, who have made fighting elections a kind of a hobby.

Tasks Ahead

Elections over, the new government faces tough challenges ahead. Some of them are listed below:

Foreign policy: The government has to find a way of dealing with Pakistan and China. The Kargil episode may be a memory now, but Pakistan will do all it can to get international mediation in Kashmir, besides encouraging terrorism in India. There is already a threat from international terrorist Osama bin Laden, who has threatened to conduct a holy

war against India. A suitable response must be found to isolate Pakistan and to stop international aid given to it. Only a strong government with a concerted action can do this. At the same time efforts must be made to improve relations with China and USA. There is thus a great challenge in the area of foreign affairs.

Economic growth: The country has passed through a prolonged period of economic slowdown. Though there is improved confidence in the air, only a second round of economic reforms and liberalisation can ensure speedy recovery. Many decisions that have been pending for a long time, such as a new telecom policy and the privatisation of insurance and other ser-

vices, must be finalised. Though economic policy is not an election issue, people look for a fresh approach as it is only reforms that can bring prosperity. The new government must take decisive action soon.

Defence: The Kargil episode showed the weaknesses in the area of defence. Steps must be taken up to modernise the army and to improve surveillance. The drift has cost the nation dearly.

Development: Education, primary health, roads, electricity and water sectors have suffered because of lack of interest and expenditure. Only a stable government can think about these issues. These areas have been neglected too long. The new government must devote itself to the task of making the lives of the people a little better.

Burning issues: The Cauvery issue, India's nuclear doctrine and the pressure to sign the CTBT, patent issues and other such issues crave attention. The last government has been too pre-occupied in dealing with coalition partners. Now that Vajpayee has got a second chance, he must devote attention to these issues and show that he is a statesman, not just a leader.

Commerce: The New Wave—Part I

Microsoft chairman, Bill Gates, might be the richest man in the world, but even he admits that his company is always just two years away from failure. In this age of the Web and Internet, the battleground has shifted from the real world to cyberspace. New edifices, albeit of bits and bytes, are being born, and older ones, of bricks and mortar, crumbling even as we speak.

But what is really happening out there? Who's winning, who's losing, and how exactly is this shift happening?

For one, the advent of the Web has thrown open totally new channels of communication between buyer and seller. Commerce, after all, refers to all transactions which involve these two entities. Using the Web, end consumers can directly interact with the manufacturers, or distributors, eliminating middlemen from the process.

Consider this: The world's largest bookstore does not consist of bricks and mortar. It is available from anywhere in the world. You can buy books from it sitting even in the remotest corner of Africa, and have them delivered to your doorstep in about 72 hours. Surprised? Well, all you have to do is visit <http://www.amazon.com> and see for yourself.

The Internet is not only changing ways in which customers interact with vendors, it not only adorns the era of faster and cheaper transactions, but the fact is that it heralds a new industrial order. One of the problems which most companies and individuals face today, market gurus included, is that no one has any idea how Internet will eventually bring about this transformation. It will change things in ways which we can't even begin to imagine. And that is the scary part for business entities. They don't know if they'll be rendered obsolete in a couple of years time from now.

This is one reason why you will find traditional "bricks and mortar" companies rushing to embrace the web. Increasingly, the hot Internet startups in the Silicon Valley are giving way to large companies spinning off Internet divisions to look after their existing business interests. From GM to Dell to Cisco, companies are learning that if they ignore the Internet, they will cease to exist.

Sure, you would have heard of the great Internet Startups, who have made millions

within just a couple of years, and some have even made billions. But this only reflects the investors' views that somewhere down the line these companies will make money. As of now, very very few are making any. Consider the facts: The total market capitalization of 199 Internet companies tracked by a Morgan Stanley team of analysts stands today at US \$ 450 billion. (The market capitalization of a company is the product of total number of shares of the company and the market value of each share.) This clearly reflects the zooming stock prices of these companies. However, he also found that the annual sales of these 199 companies combined to a paltry US \$ 21 billion. (Less than 5% of total market value) and the combined losses were US \$ 6.2 billion! So clearly, the investors are betting on the future, not the present. This amply illustrates the fact that although a mind-boggling amount of money is to be made by offering service on the net, where and exactly how this money is going to flow is still largely a guessing game.

However, just putting your lists of books online on a website is not going to make you into another Amazon. There are a whole lot of other issues involved with E-Commerce, as buying and selling on the net is referred to as. The primary amongst this is, of course, the transaction of the money, which is to take place. Today, credit cards remain the most popular means of remitting money from the consumer to the retailer in the event of a purchase. For example, when you order a book at [amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), you are prompted for your credit card number, which is then verified online, and your credit card is debited by the suitable amount.

One of the major issues here is the security of our credit card number and the order form, as it travels from your computer to its final destination. What if some unwanted entity intercepted your credit card number electronically while it was on the way from one computer to another? That person can then use your credit card number for other transactions, and you would get billed for things you never bought. One of the best ways of avoiding this is to use encryption on all the computers concerned, so that even if the transaction is interrupted somewhere, it wouldn't make any sense to the person intercepting it.

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Career
<http://www.educationtravel.com>
Good site for information about studying abroad

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<http://www.wisden.com>
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Personality & YOU



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THE only way to strengthen your will is to practise. Use your will every day. Make an effort as often as you can. Do something difficult, something you do not exactly like doing. Say "No" to a pleasure. Make a little sacrifice. This is the way to willed action, controlled action, well-aimed action.

Take any person who has done well in life. Someone you admire. Try to get at the real facts. You will find that he was up against difficulty and disappointment most of the time. Even when he seemed to be "in luck", enjoying the best of good things, he had to keep fighting, striving, endeavouring. Men like him are self-made. They banked on themselves. They backed themselves in the race on their own strength of mind and body and the power of their personality.

What is personality? It is something that makes you different from others. Personality places us where we belong. An effective personality is worth living for. With it you can scale the heights. This is the age of personality. The best man wins.

The man who neglects himself throws away his chances. He fails and no one is to blame but himself. We have to consider

seriously how we can shape ourselves a personality that charms and wins you friends and opens doors for you.

We come across dozens of persons, we do not bother to remember. There is nothing in them that draws us, they have no value for us. What is wrong with these persons? The fact is these people have never even tried to make themselves felt. They have never tried to make the most of what they are.

Give your mind depth and weight. Think out things for yourself. Study the thinkers you meet. Read the thinkers in books. Take life seriously. Learn what is best, what really matters by noting what the truly wise think, say and do. Read the lives of men who had troubles like yours. See how they met them. The world's best stories can teach you much about life and how to live. Improve yourself in this way daily in your free time. There is no better way to win infinite riches.

Self-knowledge is necessary

PEOPLE fear to face facts. They dread unpleasant facts, especially about themselves. They do not easily own up and say it was all their own fault. They

do not know themselves as they are in fact. This is something that really keeps them under, prevents them from reaching the front rank. For, unless one knows what is wrong with himself how can he know what he must put right?

Without self-knowledge we cannot get the biggest output from ourselves. See yourself as you are. Learn about your good points and those that are not so good. Try to make yourself more effective. Do not waste power. Thus, you will win insight. You will know how your machine works. You will understand it. This inside knowledge gives you a sense of power. You feel proud to run the machine. You will give it all your attention. Before long you will have it under control. Self-reverence, self-knowledge and self-control: these alone lead man to sovereign power. Right living depends on them.

Our lives must have aim. If not, we get nowhere. We have to bend our instincts, desires, emotions and will according to this aim. The man who aims at a big job knows the value of time. He has no time to lose. He takes time seriously. That is why he divides up his day, plans it. There are always jobs on hand. The

greatest men are learning all their lives. They are great because they know how little they know, and how much remains to be known. They learn from any and every one, anywhere, at any time. The man with ambition has a will of his own. He knows where he is going and how. He controls things. He is master of himself. He has self-control. He plans his life. He eliminates waste. He wastes money as little as he wastes time.

Keep an open mind

WE are always making mistakes, realize this. Let in all the light you can. Try to see things vividly as they really are. Mix continually with as many people as you can manage. Get to know people of every kind—rich, poor, young, old, sharp, dull. Some of these people have put themselves into books. These great books are alive, every word of it. Take them up as many as you can. Read into them. Make it a rule, every day, at a fixed time, to think back through the day's happenings and ask yourself: "What have I learnt today? What mistakes have I made? What was the right thing to do?" Next, look into the morrow. See what is coming. Decide what is best to do.

Thinking Power

WHAT are you doing with your brains? Every one is born with brains, but not every one sees that they grow. You have to learn to work them. It is a habit. You have to train your brain. To be different, to win more, to be worth more, you simply must command maximum brain power. Keep the brain

alive, keep it busy. Be quick at learning. Note everything. The biggest men notice the smallest things. See that every sense is wide-awake, sharp and keen. That is the beginning of efficiency. The man who cannot depend on his eyes and ears, has a very small chance of success. Link up facts. You cannot do much with a mass of ideas. Sort them out. Arrange them. That is the way to think quickly. In a given time, the trained mind shows a bigger turnover. You are valued by your output.

Mind-wandering is a bad habit. The sooner you get rid of it, the better. Try and try again to think of only one thing at a time. Give it your full attention. Let the whole mind tackle the job. A man is said to be sharp, quick, wide awake and thorough if he has the habit of concentration. It is a mental spotlight. Switch it on whenever you choose. See one topic at a time in the Centre of a crowd of topics. Black out what you do not require. You will then be using your mind efficiently. You will remember better, you will forget less easily. You will feel you have a finer intelligence.

Life is a great business

LIFE is a great business. Make it a fine art. Put your best thought and effort into it. Are you getting full value for it? If not, why not? Look and find out what is amiss. In this matter of living, all the great thinkers like Socrates, Buddha and Jesus have done so. We must know ourselves and hide nothing from ourselves. Then, we can do something about it, mend matters, live really well and look for profits. This is self-examination and has to be done by every one who is serious

about life.

Begin today. A few minutes at night before going off to sleep, spent in this way, are minutes well spent. Forget that you are you. See yourself as you would see a total stranger. If you can, be sharp and severe at your short-comings. Do this tonight, every night of your life. Finish up this self-examination with a resolve spoken firmly to yourself: I wish to put all this right. I will make an effort to change all this.

Tell this self whatever you want to be or do. Suggest to yourself tonight. I shall concentrate on my job, put my heart into it, find interest and pleasure in it. Prepare yourself for success sub-consciously. You will have to give up some old habits. Picture in your mind the new way. Keep the picture before you day and night, till you can see it, so to say, in full colour, every bit of it. The picture will become a part of your life. It will come into every thing you do at all times and in all places.

You will find that you can think of nothing else but the new way, the new-self. You have a picture come alive before you. You want it to come true. Put down all the reasons that the change is the very best that can ever happen to you. You can do it. Others worse than you have done it.

Whatever you do, be yourself. Be your best. Take yourself in hand. But first believe in yourself. Act out your own ideas and desires. Do not take the world as it is. Try to shape your environment to your liking and taste. Be bold and unashamed to do your own thinking. Captain your own ship and let your mind work the engines. It is thrilling if we can express the best in us.

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ONE common characteristic of "literary lighthouses" is their ability to light even ordinary conversation. They lend glow to it. The dull and mundane conversation sparkles. It is a different matter that it does so at someone's cost.

"You remember me, Mr Barrymore", said a pursuer. "We met last month." "I never forget a face", retorted Barrymore, "but I'll make an exception in your case."

Whistler had little liking, and less patience, for those members of the aristocracy who spoke in earth-shaking tones about trivia. Once at a reception, a haughty but

tiresome young nobleman patronizingly addressed the artist.

"You know, Mr Whistler", he said in a voice that bespoke of big events, "I-ah-passed your house this morning."

"Thank you", replied Whistler. "Thank you very much!"

Mark Twain often poked fun at the United States, but he didn't like it so well when somebody else did. On his visit to Europe, he met Paul Bourget, the French novelist-critic. Bourget made reference to the then popular American custom of tracing the family trees.

"When an American", said Bourget, "has nothing else

to do, he can always spend a few years trying to discover who his *grandfather* was."

"Right, monsieur", admitted Twain, "and when all other interests fail for a Frenchman, he can always try to find out who his *father* was."

When Kipling started getting a shilling a word—the highest rate till then—for his stories, the word quickly spread. Some Oxford students sent him a shilling with the following message. "Please send us one of your words."

Immediately he sent the reply: "Thanks."

Fred Allen was once having a sandwich at his favourite cafe when an actor,

notorious for his lengthy discourses on the state of his health, approached.

"My head is simply killing me", he complained to the humorist. "I'm sure it must be some kind of *brain fever*."

"Don't give it a thought", replied Allen. "I'm sure there's absolutely no *foundation* for it."

In the days when H.L. Mencken was the editor, young wits and hopefuls were trying to sell, he once received a poem entitled "Why Do I Live?"

Mencken scrawled the words on the copy: "Because you sent your poem by mail."

FORCE 10

Cover Story Competition Consolation Prizes

The results of the Force 10 Cover Story Contest were announced in our last issue, but we could feature only 10 consolation prize-winners. We publish here the names and viewpoints of the remaining five consolation prize-winners. We thank the readers for their overwhelming response



Arun Kumar,
Dharwad,
Karnataka. He is
doing his B.Com
and wants to
become a writer.

We are saturated with information and prefer sensory messages to anything which requires effort. Thus, our reading habits have declined. Today, we are obsessed with "audio, video and disco"—the media has subverted the way in which I think and feel. Today, while we have the glossy, Westernised magazines, the cultural and economic deprivation of the masses has grown. Young people like me feel the repercussions of the power of the media very acutely. We pick out the dominant symbols from the celebrities, no matter how cheap and superficial they are. The media unleashes fantasies and desires and behaviour I never dared to dream about earlier. I don't know whether the media is good or bad, but it has to be constructive in its approach.



Shilpi Bhargava,
Meerut. She is doing
a diploma in dietet-
ics and wants to
become a dietitian.

Media is a world of glamour, fame, money and knowledge. What is featured today in the media is on everybody's lips tomorrow. Newspapers and television dominate

our thinking, to the extent that we neglect other functions. True, some opportunities have been created, but on the whole the impact is negative. Too much violence and questionable lifestyles are being promoted. However, we are dependent on the media for many things, such as information on career and education. The media must realise this and provide authentic information, not the half-baked information supplied by celebrities who usually have nothing to say



Sweta Sinha, Patna.
She is studying
industrial microbiol-
ogy and wants to
make a career in
this field.

The media has many flaws, a major one being that it does not follow up on events. It is so obsessed with personalities that it forgets its primary role of informing and educating. To give an example, some years back, newspapers were full of scams and scandals but most have been forgotten and the people accused are roaming free. Does the media not have the responsibility of investigating what actually was the truth? It is for this reason that the media is not taken seriously—people know that after a while everything will be forgotten. Then again, many mediocre views and ideas get into print everyday. Readers, who regard newspapers as means of news and information, are thus cheated. On the other hand, we cannot forget the positive role played by the media in educating people and bringing them close to each other.



Ajay Kumar Alran,
Rampura Phul,
Punjab. He is doing
his B.Com and
preparing for MBA.

Though media has contributed to the moral degradation of youth to some extent, it also contributes to our development. Think of clearing written tests, interviews and GDs without knowing the latest topics. It is the media which has exposed us to varied thought and ideas. It gives us a chance to express ourselves and brings dynamic changes in our personality. Yet, it has to be accepted that the role of the media has changed from being a news provider to providing entertainment as well. It is up to the person himself to decide how much benefit can be reaped from the media.



J. Premkumar,
Palayamkottai,
Tamil Nadu. He is
doing his B.Sc and
wants to do his
MCA.

The media publishes irrelevant stuff by saying that the readers want it. But this is wrong. The role of the media is not merely to entertain, but to improve the society and its morals. At present, however, it is obsessed by Western trends and newspapers are becoming as frivolous as the tabloids in the West. Young people cannot be blamed if they follow the lifestyles that are depicted. No wonder, people complain about cultural pollution. The media faces a great challenge: does it want to become frivolous or does it want to remain serious? The readers may get enamoured of frivolous programmes for some time, but will return to the serious programmes and newspapers after getting sometime. In the long run, therefore, the media would be better off by sticking to its original objectives.

Competition Master Achievers



I am delighted to inform you of my success in the Civil Services examination '98 with 39th rank. I have been a regular subscriber to **COMPETITION MASTER**, which was very helpful to me in my preparation of General Studies paper. It helped me in refreshing current affairs both national and international. I attribute my high marks in the essay paper (141 out of 200) to the guidance provided by your magazine. **THE COMPETITION MASTER** touches all aspects of the general studies paper, however, it can be made more useful by providing some guidance of optional subjects and marks obtained in various subjects.

Mahaveer Singhvi, Sojat City, Rajasthan



My joy knew no bounds when I was able to get admission to one of the top business schools of the country, the Faculty of Management Studies (FMS), New Delhi. I did my graduation from DAV College, Chandigarh and used to read **THE COMPETITION MASTER** regularly. Its features are really very good and well researched, which helped me a lot. The Mock-CAT published by you was extremely helpful and I joined Mastermind. I am grateful to you for the best study materials and excellent guidance that you provide to readers.

Saurabh Tangri, New Delhi



I have come out with flying colours in the law entrance examination of MD University, Rohtak, only because of **THE COMPETITION MASTER**. I went through all issues of CM of the last two years, made notes of General Knowledge. This helped me in the GK and English sections. As a result, I ranked 9th in the

entrance examination. I whole-heartedly thank and dedicate this achievement of mine to **THE COMPETITION MASTER**. It gave me a lot of encouragement in time of need and I consider it as my best friend today. I have learnt a lot and you have given me confidence to face life.

Sukhda, Rohtak, Haryana



I am happy to inform you that I have cleared MBA entrance test of University of Pune. **THE COMPETITION MASTER** helped me in my preparation and I looked forward to the management features in every issue. The General Awareness and Business GK section published by you is very good. I also followed your advice on Group Discussions and was able to score well.

Vikas Kumar, New Delhi



I have been a regular reader of **THE COMPETITION MASTER** for more than a decade. I have succeeded in various examinations because of your guidance. Recently, I have been selected for appointment in Class I Grade B officer in Reserve Bank of India. This has been possible only due to CM. I am extremely indebted to this publication in shaping my career.

Anil Kumar Yadav, Rangpo, East Sikkim



I have been selected for MBA at Magadh University, Patna, thanks entirely to **THE COMPETITION MASTER**. I found the features Business GK, General Awareness and Do You Know very helpful indeed. I am grateful for the excellent guidance provided by you.

Ravindra Kumar, Haridwar, Uttar Pradesh



I am happy to inform you that I have been selected in MBA at the Symbiosis Institute of Management, Pune. During my preparations, I followed **THE COMPETITION MASTER** also did its Mock CAT test. You are providing a unique service to readers and the management section is the best that I have seen. I owe my success to you and am indebted to you for your guidance.

Amit Gurung, Dehradun, Uttar Pradesh



With constant guidance from **THE COMPETITION MASTER**, I have been selected for MBA at the National Institute of Management, Calcutta. At every step, it was a great help to me, whether it was preparing for written test or later for group discussion and interview. The Question Box is a very good feature you have, which helped me clear a lot of doubts. The management feature was also a great help in my preparations. Thank you!

Preeti Behl, Calcutta



In this world of rising commercialism, I found the approach of **COMPETITION MASTER** direct and practical. The advice in "Ask the Master" is really helpful. I followed everything you wrote and have received admission offers from many CAT institutes. I would like to thank **COMPETITION MASTER** for providing help and guidance at the most crucial hour.

Shalley Sharma, Panchkula

If you have passed a competitive examination or had any other major achievement, send your photograph and write up to:

THE COMPETITION MASTER ACHIEVERS, 126, Industrial Area, Chandigarh-160 002.

ADMISSION ALERT

The Competition Master's Guide to Opportunities

This feature alerts our readers about forthcoming examinations and opportunities. Institutes should send us information well in advance to be included here. Readers are advised to assess their own suitability and that of the institute before applying—this feature is not a recommendation of any course or institute.

Communications

PG Programme in Communications—Eligibility: Graduation. Written test: CAT on December 12. Last date: January 10, 2000. Apply to: Admissions Office, Mudra Institute of Communications (MICA), Shela, Ahmedabad - 380 058 with a DD for Rs 800 and s.a.s.e. with Rs 12 stamps. Also apply to CAT

Engineering

1. Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE-2000)—To be held on February 13, 2000. Eligibility: B.E., B.Sc or integrated Master's Degree. Last date: November 12, 1999. Form available at selected bank branches or apply to: Chairman, GATE, IISc Bangalore - 560 012 or IITs at Delhi, Mumbai, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Chennai, with a DD for Rs 800.

2. Common Entrance Examination for Design (CEED-2000)—Eligibility: Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Architecture or Fine Arts. Examination Date: February 6, 2000. Last date: November 19, 1999. Apply to: Chairman, GATE, IIT Bombay, Powai, Mumbai - 400 076 with a DD for Rs 200.

Management

1. MBA, MBA (IB) and MBA (HR)—Eligibility: Graduation with 50% marks or a pass in the final exams if ICAI, ICWAI, ICSI, or AMIE with 50% marks. Written test: CAT on December 12, 1999. Last date for applying: December 10, 1999. Apply to: Manager, Publication Bureau, Panjab University, Chandigarh with a DD for Rs 850 in favour of Registrar, Panjab University, Chandigarh. Also apply to CAT.

2. PG Diploma in Management—Eligibility: Graduation with minimum 50% marks. Written test: CAT on December 12, 1999. Last date: November 15, 1999. Apply to: Admissions Office, Goa Institute of Management, Ribandar, Goa - 403 006 with a DD for 700.

Also apply to CAT

3. Post graduate programme in Management—Eligibility: Graduate in any discipline with minimum 50% marks. Written test: CAT on December 12, 1999. Last date: December 10, 1999. Application form available at SBI branches or write to: SP Jain Institute of Management and Research, Munshi Nagar, Dadabhai Road, Andheri (W), Mumbai - 400 058 with a DD for Rs 850.

4. Master in Business Management (Asian Institute of Management, Manila)—Eligibility: Bachelor's degree, 2 years of work experience and minimum age 22 years. Annual fee: \$12,000 per annum. Written test: CAT, GMAT or AIMAT. Last date: December 15, 1999. Apply to: AIM Alumni, 520 Maker Chamber V, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021 with a DD for Rs 2500.

5. PG Programme in Business Administration—Eligibility: Graduation. Written test: CAT on December 12. Last date: December 16, 1999. Apply to: Registrar, Banaras Hindu University, Banaras. Also apply to CAT.

6. PG Diploma in Management—Eligibility: Graduation with minimum 50% marks. Written test: CAT on December 12. Last date: December 30, 1999. Apply to: Programme Manager, Nirma Institute of Management, Sarkhej Gandhinagar Highway, Post: Chandlodia, Ahmedabad - 382 481 with a DD for Rs 700. Also apply to CAT.

7. PG Programme in Rural Management (2 years)—Eligibility: Graduate with minimum 50% marks. Written test: December 19, 1999. Last date: November 12, 1999. Apply to: Admissions Co-ordinator, Institute of Rural Management, Post Box No. 60, Anand - 388 001 with a s.a.s.e. with Rs 12 stamps and a DD for Rs 50.

8. Master of Management—Eligibility: Bachelor's degree in engineering with first class or PG degree in science with first class. Written test: December 19, 1999. Last date: November 6, 1999. Apply to: Admissions Coordinator, School of Management, IIT Bombay, Powai, Mumbai - 400 076 with a DD for Rs 800 and 3 self-addressed stickers.

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Choose The Right Words

Jonathan Swift defined good writing as the art of putting "proper words in proper places". Although this definition oversimplifies the process of composition, it does stress the fact that words are the units with which a writer works.

Words are the essence of communication, even of communication to oneself. The writer finds with words just as he writes with them, and neither his thinking nor his writing can be efficient unless his words are accurate. A concern about right words, therefore, is not just a matter of choosing, imposing or arresting words. It is a matter of ordering experience, evaluating it, and communicating the results.

Words are symbols for experience. They represent what we see, hear, feel, smell, taste, and do, and the attitudes and thoughts which we derive from these experiences. The word is not the experience itself.

We cannot drink the word "water", ride in the word "car", or refresh our bodies with the word "sleep". But we can see words to "stand for" these experiences.

"Christ was crucified" makes us think of an event that happened in a far-off country nearly two thousand years ago. By words, therefore, we are able to draw on the experience of people in all ages and in all places, and to use that experience to plan for the future. In a sense, then, words give us a degree of control over time and space by giving us a means of thinking about events in other times and places.

The relation between a word and its referent is a mental one. We can think of different referents for the same word. Thus, a *spring* may be a season, a source of drinking water, or a metal bar or coil.

This multiple use of the same word allows us to describe a limitless number

of experiences with a limited number of words. The people to whom we are speaking or writing can usually tell which meaning we have in mind by noticing the whole statement or situation in which we use the word—"I'll be glad when spring comes". "Fill this bottle at the spring"; "The car has a broken spring."

In practice we learn the meanings of words by their contexts. When we are learning our language we do not meet the word "run" by itself, we always meet it in some situation—a man running for a bus, a child running a temperature, and so on.

We learn the meanings of "run" by learning the contexts in which it is used. This is exactly how the writers of dictionaries get their definitions. They gather sample contexts and write the definitions to describe them, so that when a dictionary lists different meanings for the word "spring", it is recording the contexts in which "spring" most frequently occurs.

The only meanings a word has are those that exist in the minds of people who use it. A word is always used in some situation or context. The context shows how a word is being used, or what it means. The principle is called the principle of usage, which states the meanings of a word are determined by the ways speakers and writers generally use it.

The principle of usage has two important corollaries. First, a word has no intrinsic meaning, that is, no meaning of its own apart from the uses people give it. Second, the current meanings of a word will change if users accept the changes. Words are chameleons. They acquire the colour of their environment.

Many words have quite different meanings from those they once had.

"Wench" once meant a child and had no unpleasant associations; "buxom" was once complimentary, so much so that a fifteenth century writer could use it to refer to the Virgin Mary, "manufacture" meant "to make by hand", but when goods came to be machine-made we retained the old name for the new process, "lingerie", when imported from France, meant "linen goods", but its most popular use today has nothing to do with linen; "quarantine" has long since lost its original Italian meaning of "forty days".

Words mean whatever users agree to make them mean, that many of them have had different meanings at different stages of their histories, and that their present meanings vary with the contexts in which they are used.

The distinction between denotations and connotations is that the latter reveal attitudes about an object or event but the former do not. These attitudes may be favourable or unfavourable. In "That is a cute hat" and "That is an absurd hat", the word "hat" is used denotatively in both sentences, but "cute" has favourable and "absurd" unfavourable connotations.

Some words, such as cute, brave, efficient, fame, glory, hope, and valuable usually have only favourable connotations. Others such as absurd, callous, hate, idiotic, lust, treason, and vicious have unfavourable connotations.

A writer who is interested only in providing information will tend to use words at a denotative level. Since clarity of communication—clear pointing to specific facts—is his main aim, he cannot afford to let his readers make all sorts of interpretations. Therefore, he tries to restrict interpretation by choosing words and contexts which are relatively free from connotations.

Improve Your Word Power

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 aglow: (a) glowing (b) dance (c) warm (d) eager</p> <p>2 bowdlerise: (a) ban (b) censor (c) prohibit (d) stop</p> <p>3 cordite: (a) landless labourer (b) wounded soldier (c) meaningless talk (d) smokeless explosive</p> <p>4 dismissive: (a) considerate (b) rude (c) kind (d) careful</p> <p>5 effluence: (a) stream (b) pond (c) lake (d) dam</p> <p>6 flagellation: (a) praise (b) confidence (c) punishment (d) demotion</p> <p>7 grabble: (a) grope about (b) run about (c) worry about (d) travel about</p> <p>8 histrionic: (a) historical (b) spiritual (c) dramatic (d) ethical</p> <p>9 impunity: (a) slavery (b) selection (c) payment (d) freedom</p> <p>10 jarring: (a) unpleasant (b) polite (c) memorable (d) discouraging</p> <p>11 loutish: (a) timely (b) vulgar (c) suitable (d) refined.</p> | <p>12 mish-mash: (a) effective measure (b) daily routine (c) burning topic (d) confused mixture</p> <p>13 nippy: (a) aggressive (b) cold (c) warm (d) expensive</p> <p>14 osmosis: (a) rejection of offer (b) injured innocence (c) acceptance of ideas (d) betrayal of trust</p> <p>15 placate: (a) pacify (b) notify (c) verify (d) justify</p> <p>16 query: (v) (a) tremble (b) dig (c) construct (d) question</p> <p>17 razzmatazz: (a) safe passage (b) extravagant publicity (c) late arrival (d) standing ovation</p> <p>18 skirmish: (a) fight (b) compromise (c) solution (d) proof</p> <p>19 tutelage: (a) pattern (b) exhibition (c) instruction (d) approval</p> <p>20 u-turn: (a) reversal of policy (b) confirmation of minutes (c) honesty of purpose (d) simplicity of manners</p> |
|---|---|

ANSWERS

1. **aglow:** (a) glowing
—It is nice to see faces of all children *aglow*
2. **bowdlerise:** (b) censor
—The Censor Board has decided that the film on past British Royalty needs to be *bowdlerised*
3. **cordite:** (d) smokeless explosive.
—The war stories were
- laced (mixed) with the taste of *cordite* and the raw smell of adventure
4. **dismissive:** (b) rude
—The Chairman was a little *dismissive* about investing any resources in online/internet activity
5. **effluence:** (a) stream
—The literary critic feared the current *effluence* of English fiction from India

would harm genuine Indian literature

6. **flagellation:** (c) punishment

—The characters in her short stories seem to be adept at self *flagellation*

7. **grabble:** (a) grope about

—In the pitch dark all my efforts to *grabble* either the door handle or the light switch proved futile

8. **histrionic:** (c) dramatic

—She could not help showing her *histrionic* latents even when there was no occasion to do so

9. **impunity:** (d) freedom

—The orders prohibiting the sale of items made from ice and cut fruits were being flouted with *impunity*

10. **jarring:** (a) unpleasant

—Her comments on future policy introduced a *jarring* note to the proceedings

11. **loutish:** (b) vulgar

—He was shouted down in the meeting for his *loutish* behaviour

12. **mish-mash:** (d) confused mixture

—The book was a confused *mish-mash* that told the readers what a wonderful woman she was

13. **nippy:** (b) cold, chilly

—The weather is both jolly *nippy* as well as enjoyable

today

14. **osmosis:** (c) acceptance of ideas

—The writings and efforts of social workers have tried every bit to strengthen the process of cultural *osmosis* in a complex society like India

15. **placate:** (a) pacify, soothe

—Every effort to *placate* the frenzied mob proved in vain

16. **query:** (v) (d) question

—The Minister was *queried* about his plans for the industry

17. **razzmatazz:** (b) extravagant publicity

—The biggest gathering of environmentalists, political leaders and media-persons in the capital was a *razzmatazz* of rare combination

18. **skirmish:** (a) fight

—There is no mention of the *skirmish* on the border in today's major newspapers

19. **tutelage:** (c) instruction, tuition

—After his father's death he was placed under the *tutelage* of a master craftsman

20. **u-turn:** (a) reversal of policy

—It takes no time for our politicians to make a *u-turn* when the opportunity so demands

The Competition Master

ALL INDIA MOCK-CAT 1999

Our Mock CAT published last year received an overwhelming response. Keeping the interest of our readers in mind, we are publishing another test for this year, closely following the actual CAT test held last year. If you are an MBA aspirant, or want to appear in subsequent years, you should participate in it and get your actual national percentile and scores. This will help you identify weaknesses and get over your handicaps.

The test is also useful for Bank PO aspirants.

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INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Do the test in 2 hours in one sitting. No breaks are to be taken. Ideally, do the test early in the morning so that you can concentrate better.
- 2 The test should be attempted at home, in test conditions. Timing is important and we expect readers will stick to the time limits.
- 3 Fill up the answers in the answer sheet or its photocopy and send it to us by December 1, 1999. Candidates who are not taking CAT this year may send the answer sheets by December 31, 1999. Please also send a draft of Rs 100.00 in the name of THE COMPETITION MASTER, Chandigarh towards processing fee. Our address: 126, Industrial Area-I, Chandigarh.
- 4 Entries received without the fees of Rs 100.00 will not be entertained.
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- 6 We will assess your paper and send answers with explanations. You will also receive a booklet containing formulae and tips to succeed.

SECTION A

Time allowed: One hour

PART—I

Directions for Q. 1-10: Read the passage below and select the best choice from the options.

Passage I

The new form of direct marketing is a big step up from today's crude version. But it is also in some ways a step back. The first direct marketers were trusted local shopkeepers. Compared with today's direct marketers whose best stab at intimacy is a pre-printed letter with a misspelt name, the local shopkeeper really knew his customers—remembering when to order a favourite bolt of fabric for one, suggesting a new cough tincture to another. "He carried his database in his head", says Don Peppers, who with Martha Rogers was an early advocate of personalised marketing.

The transformation of direct marketing from its local origins into advertising's downmarket cousin dates from the birth of mass production which enabled manufacturers to produce goods in large quantities for sale by chain stores to unseen buyers. The first mass-produced shoes in America were called "straights", with identical shapes for left and right feet. Lester Wunderman, inventor of the term "direct marketing", believes that mass production has conditioned consumers to expect unsatisfactory service and goods. "It created a culture of things that didn't quite fit, didn't quite suit and didn't quite serve", he says.

With mass retailing came mass advertising. Without direct contact with

the consumer, manufacturers could not know who was buying what, only what was selling. Mass advertising established a link between a product and millions of faceless consumers. Brands—encapsulating a short, memorable message—were part of this relationship. The result has in many cases been fantastically successful. Coca Cola has created a drink that is instantly recognised and even has emotional resonance.

Yet branding is, at best, an imprecise art. Most consumers would be hard-pressed to explain why, say, Levis or Nike are losing cachet to such newcomers as Tommy Hilfiger. Because they sell through huge retailers, producers struggle to know why customers buy their brands. As advertising costs have risen and the media have fragmented, mass marketing has become harder and more costly. That, plus new computer technology, has pushed direct marketing into the limelight. Its full potential is only just being grasped. By manipulating information, including data over the Internet, direct marketing can be targeted and personalised. It can even be intelligent—learning what customers like from what they buy and where they browse, as well as soliciting feedback via the telephone and e-mail. The result can be more effective than mass advertising.

The low costs of direct marketing have created a huge and fast-growing industry—made up of direct mail, telemarketing, database marketing, the Internet and free-phone TV, radio and print advertisements. In its biggest market, North America, the industry was worth \$ 163 billion in 1998, when it grew by 7% to almost three-fifths of the country's total spending on adver-

being The industry expects 7% annual growth to 2002 beating the 5.5% forecast for advertising spending

Direct marketing is growing even faster in places where junk mail is new enough still to be welcome Robert Wientzen president of America's Direct Marketing Association says that in Russia and the Czech Republic most junk mail is opened and read—indeed the average piece is pored over by more than one person Even in China despite an unreliable postal service and few credit cards the government is encouraging direct marketing, partly to stop people migrating to cities in search of things to buy

Yet most direct marketing remains clumsy Britain's Direct Marketing Association admits its members spend £ 30 000 (\$ 49 000) a year sending mailings to dead people typical success rates for most mail shot campaigns in mature countries are no better than 2% Steve Dapper chief executive of Rapp Collins a big direct marketing agency complains that consumer data are sold too freely leading to pesky cold calls and junk mail The trouble is that direct marketing is still driven by the same thinking as mass marketing

Most direct marketing is based on profiles built by classification systems that use a mixture of census data questionnaires electoral roll information and in America credit card data to segment populations This information is passed to a direct marketing agency to slice into profiles Having defined a type the agency buys the names and addresses of similar people from mailing lists sold by list brokers The profiles are not sophisticated Scott Adams creator of the Dilbert cartoons jokes that the most important category is The Stupid Rich so named because of their tendency to buy anything that's new regardless of cost or usefulness If you sell enough to them he says you can afford to sell the rest to The Stupid Poor

- 1 Why is today's direct marketing called crude?
 - 1 it is a crude attempt to become intimate with the customer
 - 2 it is unlike the shopkeepers of the past
 - 3 it is a crude method to sell things
 - 4 it is not sophisticated as mass marketing
- 2 Why is the new form of marketing said to be a step backward?
 - 1 it goes back in history
 - 2 it tries to do what shopkeepers were trying to do earlier
 - 3 it wants to learn traditional thinking and knowledge
 - 4 it is breaking away from mass advertising
- 3 Why did direct marketing become advertising's downmarket cousin?
 - 1 mass production became more popular
 - 2 it began to be looked down upon
 - 3 large quantities could be sold through mass advertising
 - 4 it became less fashionable because of chain stores
- 4 The author's opinion about mass production is that
 - 1 it has conditioned customers to accept unsatisfactory goods and services
 - 2 it has created a culture of goods that are not perfectly all right
 - 3 it has made goods cheaper because of economies of scale
 - 4 it enabled manufacturers to produce goods in large quantities
- 5 Why is branding an imprecise art?
 - 1 producers do not know why customers buy their brands
 - 2 producers do not know why Levis is losing customers
 - 3 mass marketing has become harder and more costly
 - 4 direct marketing has been pushed into the limelight
- 6 How can direct marketing become more effective than mass advertising?
 - 1 by using data on the Internet
 - 2 by making it more targeted and personalised
 - 3 by trying to learn what customers like
 - 4 by soliciting feedback through telephone and e-mail
- 7 Which of the following factors have been identified as contributing to the popularity of direct marketing
 - I its low cost
 - II high cost of advertising
 - III fragmentation of the media

1 I & II 2 I & III 3 II & III 4 I, II & III
- 8 The rate of growth in Russia and Czech Republic is expected to be
 - 1 between 5.5 to 7%
 - 2 more than 7%
 - 3 less than 5.5%
 - 4 cannot say

- 9 What is the most likely reason as to why mailings are sent to dead people?
 - 1 direct marketing is driven by the same thinking as mass marketing
 - 2 consumer data are sold too freely
 - 3 data are bought from list brokers
 - 4 nobody bothered to update the data collected
- 10 The author feels that it is important to sell to The Stupid Rich because
 - 1 they will buy anything new contributing to profits
 - 2 you can then afford to sell the rest to The Stupid Poor
 - 3 it is easier to sell to The Stupid Poor
 - 4 none of the above

Directions for Q 11-15 Read the passage and select the best choice from the options

Passage II

Video games have become a pervasive form of entertainment in the 1990s Today an estimated 69 per cent of American families own or rent video and computer games Most are harmless entertainment but in far too many of the most popular ones kids are acting out realistic violent experiences on their TV and computer screens They are severing heads and snapping spines in Mortal Kombat IV They are paying a go go dancer and then blowing her away in Duke Nukem 3D They are scorching the high school hand with a flame-thrower until they burn to death in Postal

Interactive video games introduce kids to a fantasy world that features amazingly lifelike characters detailed images of brutality and an audio mix of heart pounding music macabre sound effects and authentic voices Unlike movies and television where you watch the violence the game lets you feel the sensation of committing violent acts When you're into the game you're the game

With the rapid evolution of game technology comes a generation of titles portraying three dimensional 360 degree environments that are virtually real In Grand Theft Auto kids get to assume the role of a low level mobster and perform various murders and other felonies to impress their boss Postal was another title that generated controversy In that game kids control a character known among players as The Postal Dude who goes postal when the bank forecloses on his house On their rampage players gun down anything that moves including parishioners leaving a church The Postal Dude occasionally mutters Only my gun understands me

Makers of the more violent games are pushing the outer limits of savagery and depravity One of the most hotly anticipated videos is the sequel to Carnageddon in which the player racks up points for mowing down pedestrians In Carnageddon 2 your victims not only squish under your tires and splatter blood on the windshield they also get on their knees and beg for mercy or commit suicide If you like you can also dismember them

When it comes to the effects of video games on children there's a double standard in the industry while publishers trumpet educational games in helping develop kids learning skills they discount that violent games can have baser influences on behaviour and attitudes There has been no evidence to show that video games increase violence in children says Pat Becker of Electronic Arts the industry's largest publisher

For decades the public has derided the increasing violence in Hollywood movies and on prime-time television Researchers conclude there is a measurable increase of three to 15 per cent in an individual's aggressive behaviour after watching violent television

- 11 What is the primary difference between video games and movies, according to the passage?
 - 1 In movies, the sensation of committing violence is real
 - 2 Video games feature lifelike characters and detailed images of brutality
 - 3 Not all movies are violent
 - 4 Video games let you feel the sensation of committing violent acts
- 12 Why does the author describe details of different video games?
 - 1 to show the level of savagery depicted in the games
 - 2 to impress the reader

- 3 to describe the games better
- 4 to show what games children are playing these days
- 13 It is said that the industry has a double standard because of the fact that
 - 1 they say one thing and do the opposite
 - 2 they are not willing to accept that games increase violence in children
 - 3 they claim that educational games develop skills but discount the effect of violent games
 - 4 there is no research to show that violent games have any effect on children
- 14 What could be a suitable title for the passage?
 - 1 What shall we do about violent video games?
 - 2 Children and video games
 - 3 Double standards of the video game industry
 - 4 The brutalising effects of video games
- 15 What is meant by the line 'When you're in the game you're the game'?
 - 1 you get deeply involved in the game
 - 2 playing the games is almost like real life experiences
 - 3 the sensation is like the real experience of committing acts of violence
 - 4 the games become like life itself

Directions for Q. 16-26: Read the passage below and select the best choice from the options

Passage III

Water plays a versatile role in the functioning of the biosphere. The water cycle has two distinct branches—the atmospheric branch and the terrestrial branch. In the atmosphere, water exists mainly in gaseous form. On the earth, liquid forms and solid forms (ice/snow) predominate.

Water is important to the biosphere in that it is from water that the biosphere draws its most abundant element, hydrogen. Hydrogen in the form of carbohydrates constitutes a very important source of energy for all living things. Although we have a plentiful supply of water in the oceans, it is not of direct use to us. We have to depend upon a small stock of water—less than 1%—contained in our rivers and fresh water lakes and in the subsoil. Even this small proportion can cause havoc to life if it is not properly managed; the reference here is to floods.

While relief measures are undoubtedly important, attention has to be focused on the long-term flood control measures. In the past, we had constructed flood moderation reservoirs across catchment areas of rivers, and built 19,260 km of embankments and 27,850 km length of drainage channels. Besides, 18,900 villages have been raised above the flood level up to March 1997.

The fact is that long-term flood control measures to be effective should include both traditional methods and afforestation measures. The intensity of floods may be reduced by keeping the drainage channels clear and removing the accumulated silt from reservoirs and river beds. In fact, the dams built have trapped silt coming from the hills and prevented its large accumulation in river beds downstream. Hence the new emphasis on building more dams in the northern rivers should be welcomed. The embankments also need to be reinforced. In many places, they are just made of mud and sand and easily breached by a little gush of water. Other improvements should be in the regulation of water discharge from filled reservoirs and in the flood forecasting system. Even the present warning system, though inadequate, has helped to save many valuable lives and property. Since the States have been lethargic in implementing flood control schemes and since most rivers flow through many States, it would be better if flood control is handled by the Centre. The mighty Himalayan rivers are unlikely to be tamed unless we have a basic understanding as to how floods originate. Since 1947, Indian and foreign scientists have been repeatedly emphasising that the volume of water in the Himalayan rivers in the monsoons is the combined effect of rainfall, snow melt and glacier discharges. Even the first expert committee set up by Nehru had opined that a serious study of the snow melt and glacier discharges is essential for avoiding flood disasters in the north. But efforts in this direction, during the last 50 years, have been very inadequate. Now

that satellite pictures are available detailing the snow cover in the Himalayas over large areas and their movements, the government would do well to initiate measures to obtain the relevant data from such pictures. Field studies in the Himalayan region would also help flood control measures.

16 Which of the following, according to the passage, is a new non-traditional method of flood control?

- 1 construction of flood moderation reservoirs across catchment areas of rivers
- 2 building embankments
- 3 laying drainage channels
- 4 planting more areas with trees
- 17 The author speaks approvingly of all of the following except
 - 1 afforestation measures
 - 2 the last five decades' efforts at studying the Himalayan environment
 - 3 emphasis on building dams
 - 4 inadequate flood warning system
- 18 The author welcomes building dams in the northern rivers because they
 - 1 prevent trapping the silt coming from the hills
 - 2 store water for irrigation
 - 3 store water for power generation
 - 4 store water for navigation
- 19 The author's attitude is
 - 1 cynical
 - 2 critical
 - 3 constructive
 - 4 conservative
 - 5 optimistic
- 20 The author seems to favour
 - I traditional methods
 - II afforestation
 - III soil conservation measures
 - 1 I only
 - 2 II only
 - 3 III only
 - 4 I & II only
- 21 Which of the following statement(s) is/are definitely TRUE in the context of the passage?
 - I A significant proportion of water on the earth is not of direct use to us
 - II Water from rainfall, glaciers and snow-melt does not pose any threat to life and property
 - III Water exists in atmosphere in the same state as is available on the earth
 - 1 I only
 - 2 II only
 - 3 III only
 - 4 I & II only
- 22 The difficulty in controlling Himalayan rivers is
 - 1 inadequate number of dams
 - 2 inadequate number of reservoirs in catchment areas of rivers
 - 3 inadequate length of drainage channels
 - 4 lack of knowledge of snow melt and glacier discharges
- 23 Which of the following is a new suggestion of the author?
 - 1 water discharge should be regulated
 - 2 the drainage channels should be cleared up
 - 3 the reservoirs built across the catchment areas of rivers should be desilted
 - 4 a flood forecasting system should be established
- 24 A deficiency in the flood control measures contributing to the intensity of floods is the
 - 1 clearing up of the drainage channels
 - 2 desilting of reservoirs built across the catchment areas of rivers
 - 3 desilting of river beds
 - 4 embankments are weak
- 25 According to the passage, the flood problem arises because.
 - 1 afforestation and soil conservation measures have not been taken
 - 2 reservoirs across catchment areas of rivers have not been built
 - 3 embankments have not been built
 - 4 drainage channels have not been laid
- 26 The author recommends all of the following except:
 - 1 use of data from satellite pictures

- 2 field studies of rainfall
- 3 field studies of glacier discharges
- 4 asking States to take flood control measures

Directions for Q. 27-34: Read the passage below and select the best choice from the options.

Passage IV

It was a tree-hugger's dream. Save the rainforests. Respect and honour the knowledge of the people who live there. And still make money for your shareholders. Unfortunately it doesn't look as though it is going to work. This month, Shaman Pharmaceuticals, the leading proponent of the "ethnobotanical" approach to drug discovery—an attempt to identify the active molecules in folk remedies, in order to turn them into modern prescription medicines—threw in the towel.

Shaman's failure to convert old-wives tales into drugs probably marks the end of the sort of selective 'botanising' that started the pharmaceutical industry, when the pain-killing properties of willow bark led to the invention of aspirin. Merck, one of the world's biggest drug companies, spent ten years trying to extract and develop the active principles from Chinese herbal remedies. It failed too. Other firms are downgrading the role of traditional medicine when screening plants for useful substances. Instead they prefer the automated mass screening techniques originally developed to deal with the artificial products created in vast numbers by modern combinatorial chemistry.

It is a popular misconception, probably generated by such pharmaceutical celebrities as quinine, and fed by environmentalists keen to preserve rainforests that those forests abound with billion-dollar blockbuster drugs just waiting to be discovered. The facts are different. Between 1960 and 1982, America's National Cancer Institute and Department of Agriculture collected 35,000 samples of roots, fruits and bark from 12,000 species of plants. Only three significant products were discovered in them. Taxol, Camptothecin and homoharringtonine have all proved useful as anti cancer drugs but they do not suggest that the forests are teeming with pharmaceutical opportunities. And more recent collections by the NCI and DOA (gathered between 1986 and 1996 from South America) have been even more disappointing. As yet not a single drug has emerged from them.

Shaman tried hard. It sent teams of physicians and botanists into the rainforests of more than 30 countries in Asia, Africa and South America. They collaborated with local healers to identify plants with medicinal properties. And the firm abided by the standards laid down in the Convention on Biological Diversity that was signed in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. This sought to highlight the economic value of regions rich in species, and ensure that local people benefited. That meant that, in exchange for the knowledge it received, Shaman provided a payment of up to \$ 8,000 (or the equivalent in goods and services) to the healer's community. It also promised long-term benefits if a drug was actually developed from one of the plants concerned.

But although short-circuiting the screening process by starting with medically proven plants may have looked a smart move ten years ago screening technology has got better and better. It will soon be possible to check molecules for promising biological activity at a rate of 100,000 a day. It may look more elegant to ask the locals, but screening everything, regardless, is now faster and cheaper. On top of that, the folk healers' concerns are not necessarily those of drug companies. The former are frequently preoccupied with curing parasitic infestations unknown in the rich countries that provide the companies with their markets. They are much less adept at diagnosing and treating diseases such as cancer, where the real money is to be made.

There are some areas of overlap, however. Shaman had seemed to be making good progress on type II diabetes (which is untreatable with insulin). Diabetes is a disease that is recognised in many cultures because sufferers, whose blood-sugar levels are out of control, tend to pass sugar-rich urine. By using ethnobotany to provide the raw materials, Shaman's researchers were able within four years to isolate 30 compounds that lowered blood-sugar levels enough to make them look promising as anti-diabetes drugs. Whether any of those molecules would have made it through the regulatory process will probably never be known, but it was that process that eventually brought things to a halt. The drug in question, Provir, was actually intended

as an anti-diarrhoea treatment (diarrhoea being another problem that the rich and poor worlds share).

Provir was particularly designed for AIDS patients. That did not save it. When the Food and Drug Administration, which approves medicinal drugs in America, told Shaman it would have to conduct a further series of clinical trials on the stuff, it gave up. The trials would have delayed things by 18 months, and cost tens of millions of dollars that the company could not afford.

The end of Shaman's adventure does not, however, mean that the rainforests have lost their allure completely. Merck, for example, has a long standing arrangement with Costa Rica to prospect for drugs in that country's forests. The firm also collaborates with the New York Botanical Gardens to collect plants from all over the world. But the wisdom of the ages will not be coming with them.

- 27 Why are firms downgrading the role of traditional medicine?
 - 1 they prefer the automated mass screening techniques developed originally
 - 2 Merck spent 10 years trying to develop the principles from Chinese herbal medicines
 - 3 traditional medicine is merely old wives tales
 - 4 attempts to turn it into modern prescription medicines have failed
- 28 What does Shaman's failure show?
 - 1 it marks the end of selective botanising that started the pharmaceutical industry
 - 2 that traditional medicine cannot be commercialised
 - 3 Ethnobotany has not lived up to its promise
 - 4 attempts of companies in ethnobotany are doomed
- 29 The authors impressions on the efforts of environmentalists are that
 - I they have good intentions
 - II they are keen to preserve rainforests
 - III they have been mistaken
 - 1 I & II
 - 2 I II & III
 - 3 II & III
 - 4 Only III
- 30 Why did Shaman ensure that local people benefited?
 - 1 it wanted to help the local people
 - 2 it wanted to compensate the local people for using their traditional knowledge
 - 3 it was trying to fulfil its social responsibility
 - 4 it did not want to be seen as exploitative
- 31 In the future, local people may not be asked about traditional medicines. Why?
 - 1 screening technology has become better and better
 - 2 their knowledge has not been proved worthwhile
 - 3 their knowledge is outdated
 - 4 companies have failed in ethnobotany
- 32 Why are the concerns of folk healers not necessarily the same as concerns of drug companies?
 - 1 they live in different climates
 - 2 drug companies are commercial, local healers are not
 - 3 they cannot treat diseases like cancer
 - 4 diseases of the rich and the poor are different
- 33 Why does the author say that wisdom of the ages will not be coming with the plants?
 - 1 it is doing the prospecting on its own
 - 2 companies are using modern screening processes rather than rely on traditional knowledge
 - 3 traditional medicine has failed and has not resulted in any cures
 - 4 prospecting for medicines in forests is a waste of time
- 34 The author is likely to agree with which of the following statements about ayurveda, the traditional medicine system of India?
 - 1 It is most likely quite useless
 - 2 It has given many useful products which the West is exploiting now
 - 3 It deserves a closer look by Western drug companies
 - 4 India be paid a royalty for its knowledge, should ayurveda drugs be commercialised

Directions for Q. 35-45: Read the passage below and select the best choice from the options.

Passage V

In August 1998 Dr Pusztai stirred up a brief media frenzy by announcing on television some preliminary and unconfirmed results about the effects of genetically engineered potatoes on laboratory animals. These surprised nobody in the field, and had no implications for human health. Fortunately, no harm was done, except to Dr Pusztai, who was forced to leave the institute.

Now, however, he is back—and his story seems a bit stronger. His original claim was that engineering genes for a certain class of protein into potatoes, and then feeding the potatoes to rats, was bad for them. Nobody, however, was proposing to feed the potatoes to people. But this time he and his supporters are arguing that the damage to the rats was caused not by the protein but by the method used to put it there. Since this method is widespread in commercial genetic engineering, the media have found something to get their teeth into. At the moment, Dr Pusztai's second claim looks as questionable as his first was unsurprising. But that is almost beside the point. In Britain, and to an extent in the rest of Europe, public opinion has turned so strongly against the genetic engineering of food crops that any negative result will produce headlines. In such circumstances rational debate is almost impossible.

Dr Pusztai's potatoes were engineered to produce a molecule called Galanthus Nivalis Agglutinin (GNA). This is a natural insecticide, normally found in snowdrops (or Galanthus nivalis, as they are known to botanists), and there was some thought that transferring it to potatoes might make them resistant to the attentions of aphids. Unfortunately, when Dr Pusztai fed potatoes with an added GNA gene to rats, their growth was stunted and their immune systems suppressed. That might have been the end of the matter. But a score of scientists were so disturbed by Dr Pusztai's fate that they rallied round and took a second look at his data. A subgroup of them, led by Stanley Ewen, a pathologist from the University of Aberdeen, suggested that there was something more to worry about. This was because there seemed to be more damage in rats that had been fed the genetically modified potatoes than in a control group that was fed ordinary potatoes with GNA mixed in. And that suggested that the additional damage—thickening of the gut lining and poor development of organs such as the kidney and spleen—might be due not to the GNA, but to something in the genetic-engineering process itself. It is this assertion that has had politicians shouting for moratoriums, and shops pulling products containing genetically modified soya flour from their shelves.

Dr Ewen suggests that the blame may lie with a bit of genetic material known as the 35S cauliflower-mosaic-virus promoter. Promoters are DNA switches that turn on genes. All genes have them, but it is possible to replace a gene's natural promoter with another that is more amenable to manipulation. The 35S promoter is particularly popular in biotechnology, and is found in a number of widely planted crops that have been genetically modified, including bt-maize, which produces a natural insecticide that protects it from the attentions of the corn-borer moth, and Roundup-Ready soya beans, which are immune to a common herbicide used to kill weeds. That promoters can end up in the wrong place in a chromosome, and therefore start switching on the wrong genes, is a known phenomenon, according to Jim Dunwell, a plant biotechnologist at the University of Reading. That could account for Dr Ewen's observations. But it is by no means the only possible, or even the most likely, explanation.

Maarten Chrispeels from the University of California, San Diego, who is one of the researchers who initially supported Dr Pusztai, is now particularly sceptical. He points out that potatoes are chock-a-block with nasty compounds, and that these poisons differ widely in concentration depending on how the potatoes are grown. This phenomenon is known as somaclonal variation, and it makes experiments that involve feeding potatoes to laboratory animals hard to interpret properly. It is not enough, for example, simply to give the same amount of potato to the test animals and the controls. The cultivation of the experimental and control potatoes must also be uniform, otherwise the chemistry of the tubers may vary in ways that have nothing to do with the engineered gene. On top of that, even rats hate raw spuds—so their diet must be supplemented by protein from different sources, adding

yet another variable.

Dr Chrispeels says he has seen no evidence of such quality controls in the data that he was asked to support. And so, before he is willing to accept this "revolutionary indictment of genetic engineering", as he calls it, he wants proof that somaclonal variation is not the culprit and that the alleged effect occurs in different strains of potato (cooked, as well as raw) and in other plants as well. In fact, the results he has seen are so preliminary that he is not even convinced that they make it unsafe to use GNA as a genetically engineered insecticide in the first place, even in foodstuffs bound for the cooking pot. Nor have similar observations been made in other publicly known experiments involving the 35S promoter. Charles Arntzen at the Boyce Thompson Institute in Ithaca, New York, for example, is using it to introduce bits of disease-causing bacteria into crops, in a bid to create cheap, edible vaccines. He has done feeding experiments on people, as well as on mice, with none of the adverse effects that Dr Pusztai has described. Indeed, the subjects' immune systems have actually been boosted. In any case, existing safeguards make it highly unlikely that jumping promoters could be causing problems in established genetically modified crops. The effect is so well known that regulators in both America and the European Union require good evidence that plants do not suffer from such instabilities. So far, that evidence has been provided.

Why, then, are people so jittery and so ready to believe the worst of genetic engineers, particularly in Europe, and especially in Britain? The technology has already brought economic benefits to agriculture. According to the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications—admittedly an interested party, since it is largely financed by biotechnology firms—bt-maize has increased yields in fields where it is planted by 9%. On top of that, in 1997, when 2.8 m hectares (7 m acres) of American soil were planted with the stuff, farmers saved \$ 190 m in insecticide costs. And even herbicide-resistant soya beans need less spraying. Instead of applying weedkiller before sowing a crop, which requires heavy doses to kill the weeds as seeds, farmers spray after germination, when the weeds are more vulnerable. That reduces the amount of nasty chemicals by between 10% and 40%—which ought to please environmentalists.

Yet such advantages seem to count for little with European public opinion. In Britain, a big part of the explanation may be mad-cow disease. The dissembling and cover-ups that characterised that unhappy episode have made people unwilling to accept any official reassurance on matters of food safety. As a corollary, they are easily persuaded that there is a problem even by the thinnest of scientific evidence. There is also the question of who benefits from the technology. Apart from the firms who own it, the beneficiaries are, for the moment, mostly farmers. Genetically modified crops are no tastier than their unmodified counterparts; they simply have better yields. That is not an enormous incentive to any consumer to leap into the unknown.

Another part of the blame, however, lies with an author who died a century and a half ago—Mary Shelley. In the figures of Victor Frankenstein and his creature she managed to create images so powerful that they have haunted biology through the headlines for decades. Transplant surgery, in vitro fertilisation and the genetically modified bacteria used to produce a number of drugs have all in their days been seen as unnatural, Shelleyesque abominations. In these cases researchers were able to exorcise the revenant by proving the value and safety of their work. In the minds of many, the genetic modification of crops has yet to do that. Only when no writer would dream of using the—F—word in an article about it, will the technology truly have been accepted.

35. Why is rational debate about genetic foods almost impossible, according to the passage?

1. the public has become suspicious about genetic engineering in foods
 2. public interest has turned strongly against genetic engineering in Europe
 3. the public does not know very much about genetic engineering
 4. none of the above
36. Why should the method used to put protein in potatoes be considered objectionable?
1. the method is not scientific and has not been approved

2. foods engineered by it has caused damage in rats
3. it is not ethical
4. it is used widely and may affect human health
37. Which would be the closest meaning of the phrase "to get their teeth into"?

 1. to bite
 2. to latch on with interest
 3. to write about in the press
 4. to pick up a fight

38. The GNA molecule would be useful because:

 1. it could result in better yields of potato crops
 2. it could make them resistant to insects
 3. it is normally found in snowdrops
 4. it is a natural insecticide

39. The additional damage detected in rats was claimed to be.

 1. due to the genetic engineering process
 2. due to the GNA
 3. dangerous, because it could affect humans
 4. has had politicians shouting for moratoriums

40. Dr Ewens has suggested which of the following:

 1. that promoters are DNA switches that turn on genes
 2. that it is possible to replace a gene's natural promoter with another
 3. that the cause of GNA production was due to promoters
 4. none of the above

41. What is somaclonal variation?

 1. substances may differ in plants depending on how they are grown
 2. variations between the way vegetables are grown
 3. a process that makes experiments hard to interpret
 4. difficult to say from the passage

42. The finding that immune systems have actually boosted while there have been adverse impact on mice shows that:

 1. mice are different from humans
 2. Dr Pusztai's research may have been faulty
 3. it is a contradiction
 4. no explanation is available

43. People are unwilling to accept official reassurance because:

 1. their memory is still fresh about the mad-cow disease
 2. the typically bureaucratic response to a public health problem, in the past
 3. images of Frankenstein haunting biology
 4. they do not have the complete information

44. Which of the following, if true, would most likely support Dr Pusztai's claim?

 1. the mad-cow disease was a result of questionable genetic practices
 2. the diet of Victor Frankenstein consisted of genetically modified food
 3. Genetically modified bacteria is used to produce a number of drugs today
 4. the additional damage in rats was due to the GNA

45. Given below are three statements. Select the statements which are true:

 - I. the additional damage in rats was due to the genetic engineering process
 - II. In Europe, the mad cow-disease has created a suspicion about genetically altered food
 - III. transplant surgery was unnatural

 1. I & II
 2. I & III
 3. All are true
 4. All are false

PART-II

Directions for Q. 46-50: In each of the following sentences, a part of a sentence is left blank. Beneath each sentence, four different ways of completing the sentence are indicated. Choose the best alternative from among the four.

46. No doubt, it was our own government but it was being run

by _____ solutions.

1. worn out
2. second hand
3. impractical
4. appropriate
47. He has no money now _____.

 1. although he was very poor once
 2. as he has given up all his wealth
 3. because he was very rich once
 4. because he had received huge donations once

48. The Kumbh Mela is billed as the biggest religious festival in the world, but _____, partly because no effort has been made to quantify it.

 1. no one knows exactly how big it is
 2. nobody knows exactly its size
 3. it is unknown how big exactly it is
 4. nobody said exactly how big it is

49. Whatever be the experience of the other funds, the Unit Trust of India's decision will put pressure on them to convert their closed schemes into open ones. Investors _____.

 1. ought to carefully scan potential offerings on that logic
 2. must evaluate future offerings from other funds on that basis
 3. should hereafter gauge such offerings keeping such a rationale in mind
 4. reckon with such offerings upon such expectations

50. Many of us live one-eyed lives. We rely largely on the eye of the mind to form our images of reality. It is a mechanical world based on fact and reason _____. So today more and more of us are opening the other eye, the eye of the heart, looking for realities to which the mind's eye is blind.

 1. It has led to unprecedented scientific growth and material well-being
 2. In the nuclear age, our mind-made world has been found flawed and dangerous, even lethal
 3. The question is irrelevant, whether or not there is more to the world beyond what can be seen and reasoned
 4. We have built our lives based on it because it seemed predictable and safe.

Directions for Q. 51-55: Each question has a set of four statements. Each statement has three segments. Choose the alternative where the third segment in the statement can be logically deduced from the preceding two.

51. A. All trains are carts. All carts are boats. All boats are trains.
B. All dogs are crows. No crow is red. Some dogs are red.
C. All trees are poles. All flowers are poles. All poles are trees.
D. Some horses are bulls. All bulls are strong. Some horses are strong.
1. B only
2. C only
3. D only
4. none of these
52. A. Some boxes are round. Some pots are round. Some boxes are pots.
B. All clocks are tables. Some tables are books. Some books are clocks.
C. All trees are poles. Some poles are wires. Some wires are trees.
D. All diamonds are pearls. All emeralds are pearls. All emeralds are diamonds.
1. A only
2. B only
3. C and D
4. none of these
53. A. Some shoes are gloves. Some gloves are clocks. No clock is a shoe.
B. All clouds are rivers. All rivers are lakes. All clouds are lakes.
C. All apples are chocolates. Some chocolates are blue. Some apples are blue.
D. Some birds are worms. All worms are reptiles. Some reptiles are birds.
1. B and D
2. A and B
3. only D
4. only A
54. A. Some dogs are cats. Some tigers are cats. Every cat is either a dog or a tiger.

- B All books are magazines All newspapers are magazines Some magazines are books
C All teachers are lawyers Some lawyers are judges No teacher is a judge
D Some pistols are guns Some pistols are swords No sword is a gun

- 1 only A 2 only C
3 only B 4 none of these

- 55 A All soaps are oils All oils are bottles Some bottles are soaps
B All X are Y All Y are Z All X are Z
C Some singers are painters All painters are dancers Some singers are dancers
D Some P are X All P are Y Some X are Y

- 1 A and C 2 B and D
3 A, B and C 4 all are true

Directions for Q. 56-61 Arrange the sentences A, B, C and D in a meaningful paragraph

- 56 A With each hit responses such as fidgeting are more exaggerated
B This sensitisation is thought to be a first step in creating an overwhelming craving for the drug that eventually leads to addiction
C One of them is 'reverse tolerance' rather than becoming accustomed to cocaine with increasing exposure (as happens with say alcohol) the brain becomes more sensitive
D Cocaine, as addicts well know has curious effects on the body

- 1 ACDB 2 ADBC
3 DCAB 4 DACB

- 57 A For although technological progress is good at making computer hardware quicker smaller and cheaper it often leaves behind the software that made the machines useful in the first place
B Modern computers are masters of disguise
C Since many people resent having to junk perfectly good programs when they buy the latest computer a host of tricks has been developed over the past few years to stop software becoming redundant
D They have to be

- 1 CDAB 2 BDAC
3 CDBA 4 BACD

- 58 A Although Dr Estrin built a demonstration machine his idea failed to catch on
B But recently Dr Estrin's idea has seen something of a renaissance
C Instead microprocessors proved to be cheap and powerful enough to do things on their own without any need for reconfigurable hardware
D The first ever hybrid microprocessor combining a conventional processor with reconfigurable circuitry in a single chip was launched last month

- 1 ABCD 2 ACBD
3 DACB 4 DCAB

- 59 A The first of an armada of spacecraft is already on its way to map the planet's surface analyse its weather and shoot probes into its soil
B The current scientific assault on Mars is an unashamed celebration of modern technology
C Over the next few years a dozen or so others will follow carrying all manner of sensors, scanners and increasingly clever robotic rovers
D Meanwhile to make it easier to send the results back to Earth, NASA, America's space agency, has started planning the first permanent interplanetary data-link—Mars Network

- 1 ABCD 2 BACD
3 CADB 4 CBDA

- 60 A Other inventors had been trying to do just that for the best part of a century

- B Morse succeeded and is now remembered as 'the father of the telegraph' partly thanks to his single-mindedness—it was 12 years, for example, before he secured money from Congress to build his first telegraph line—but also for technical reasons

- C At the time Morse was a painter and occasional inventor, but when another of the ship's passengers informed him of recent advances in electrical theory, Morse was suddenly taken with the idea of building an electric telegraph

- D Appropriately for a technology commonly associated with radio operators on sinking ships the idea of Morse code is said to have occurred to Samuel Morse while he was on board a ship crossing the Atlantic

- 1 BADC 2 DCBA
3 DCAB 4 BDCA

- 61 A Americans and Europeans rarely suffer from schistosomiasis, which afflicts 200 m people worldwide or lymphatic filariasis which makes life miserable for another 120 m

- B Gone are the days when Jonas Salk refused to patent polio vaccine saying that to do so would be like patenting the sun

- C Jeffrey Sachs a Harvard economist has drawn attention to the scale of the problem poor countries cannot afford expensive medicines, and drug companies naturally tend to focus their research on finding cures for the ills of the rich rather than the afflictions of the poor

- D So the market is said to be too small to attract research

- 1 CADB 2 BCAD
3 ACBD 4 ABCD

Directions for Q. 62-68: Read the short passages given below and answer the questions that follows it

62 People need to determine whether or not their opinions are correct and to obtain an accurate appraisal of their abilities. The individual's opinions and beliefs as well as his evaluation of his abilities are important determinants of his behaviour. Correct opinions and accurate appraisals of ability from others are likely to lead satisfying or rewarding behaviour incorrect beliefs and/or inaccurate appraisals of ability lead to unpleasant consequences

This paragraph best supports the statement that—

- 1 people need to depend on others to satisfy their needs
2 every individual has some ability and some emotions
3 most individuals are not correct in their opinions and beliefs
4 there exists a drive among individuals to evaluate their opinions and abilities

63 Among the elite of metropolitan India things are gradually changing. Women are being recognised by employers, particularly in the corporate sector as temperamentally suited to the information age. Visit any advertising agency or ad film maker's office and the male-female ratio leans heavily towards the female population

This paragraph best supports the statement that—

- 1 women are heading most of the ad-agencies or ad-film makers' offices
2 women are believed to be more equipped to handle communications
3 only elite women join the corporate sector
4 male-female ratio in the society is gradually changing

64 Moral education centres upon this conception of the school as a mode of social life that the best and the deepest moral training is precisely that which one gets through having to enter into proper relations with others in a unity of work and thought. The present educational systems, so far as they destroy or neglect this unity, render it difficult or impossible to get any genuine regular moral training

This paragraph best supports the statement that—

- 1 society survives on moral values
2 morality stands on proper relations with others
3 school must teach the basic principles of social life
4 morality differs from place to place and is situation bound

65 The school is primarily a social institution. Education being a social process, the school is simply that form of community life in which all

those agencies are concentrated that will be most effective in bringing the child to share in the inherited resources of the race, and to use his own powers for social ends.

This paragraph best supports the statement that—

1. education is a process of living and not a preparation for future living
 2. education in a real sense is not provided in our schools today
 3. education teaches how to share the inherited treasure
 4. the school, as an institution, should simplify existing social life
66. Organisations are often defined as groups of people who come together to pursue a common goal. But more often than not, goals diverge as much as they converge, making the rationality of the overall organisation no more than an elusive ideal. Beneath the collective irrationality, however, organisations are often operating in a way that is eminently rational from the standpoint of the individuals, groups and coalitions directly involved.

Which of the following can be inferred from the above passage?

1. If all employees of an organisation pursue their individual goals, one can never have an organisation that behaves rationally.
 2. Although conceptually an organisation may appear to be irrational—behaviours of individuals, groups and coalitions in the organisation may be rational.
 3. As individuals, groups or coalitions in an organisation pursue their own interests, the conceptual issues of rational behaviour get blurred
 4. Since people are essentially irrational, the ideal of building a rational organisation is elusive.
67. To be beneficent when we can is a duty; and besides this, there are many minds so sympathetically constituted that, without any other motive of vanity or self-interest, they find a pleasure in spreading joy around them, and can take delight in the satisfaction of others so far as it is their own work.

Which of the following can be inferred from the above passage?

1. The author's belief arises from inclination
 2. The author's belief can be compared to the sublime in literature.
 3. The author's belief is unrelated to any emotional feeling.
 4. The author's belief has its source in all that is good in human beings.
68. It is not considered decent to overstay as a guest in a house and go on enjoying the hospitality of the host for too long a period.

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

1. Everyone welcomes a guest
2. Guests should give something in return to the host
3. Guests who overstay are always looked down upon as tiresome
4. none of the above

Directions for Q. 69-75: In the following questions, parts of the sentences are left blank. Choose the best alternative that completes the sentence.

69. The telephone symbolises that awkward _____ in all communication technologies; while it _____ to bring us together, it keeps us apart.

1. paradox, needs
2. irony, intends
3. paradox, tries
4. irony, wishes

70. Although the procedure appears to be quite complicated, the underlying _____ is very _____.

1. principle, simple
2. apparatus, heavy
3. confusion, unwarranted
4. reasons, difficult

71. Humans are _____ animals; they may like to go alone for walks, but hate to stand alone in their _____.

1. gregarious, opinions
2. nomadic, footsteps
3. vain, vanity
4. lonely, splendour

72. Scientists should have choice as to what areas they explore, and certainly have the _____ right and obligations as _____ to influence what use is made of their discoveries.

1. impeccable, teachers
2. inescapable, philosophers
3. divine, lectures
4. ethical, humanists

73. The _____ of our army was necessitated by the _____ postures assumed by the neighbouring country.

1. preparations, serious
2. mobilisation, warlike
3. movement, grave
4. strength, menacing

74. You treat your employees with a pretended generosity and _____, but they see through you and know that you actually have an _____ for the working classes.

1. respect, love
2. kindness, respect
3. respect, hate
4. benevolence, antipathy

75. It is commonly believed that the _____ world cannot be properly conceived without a knowledge of the _____.

1. ideal, present
2. past, modern
3. modern, past
4. present, ideal

Directions for Q. 76-83: Arrange the sentences A, B, C and D to form a logical sequence between sentences 1 and 6.

76. 1. Over time, India has created a series of "coping" mechanisms to deal with the increasing problem of a population out-stripping the creation of jobs in the economy, and of low levels of literacy.

- A. They are over-burdened with employing too many people.
- B. Many of India's public companies and the older private sector companies have low productivity-levels.
- C. However, an economy increasingly integrated with the global economy cannot.
- D. A largely domestic economy could, perhaps, live with these mechanisms for a while.

6. Moreover, a good proportion of these employees have low educational levels.

1. ACDB
2. BCDA
3. CADB
4. DCBA

77. 1. The recent turmoil in Brazil, the depth and spread of Asia's crisis, Russia's chaotic default on its debt and the resulting investor stampede away from risky markets are merely the highlights—or rather low points—of an extraordinarily precarious period.

- A. Two-fifths of the world economy is now in recession.
- B. The sense of crisis is now receding.
- C. Except for Japan, most of the misery is concentrated in the developing world.
- D. Capital markets proved volatile and susceptible to contagion, and emerging economies suffered the painful consequences.

6. A global economic meltdown has been avoided.

1. DACB
2. DBCA
3. CABD
4. CDAB

78. 1. Spectators at the recent Paris couture shows could have been forgiven for thinking they had taken a wrong turn on their way to the Louvre and mistakenly ended up on the set of "Wild Kingdom".

- A. There were blond fox ball skirts and crocodile trousers at Gaultier, sable ponchos at Balmain and St Laurent, ostrich-fringed everything at Valentino, ruby racoon coats at Givenchy and a lime knitted mink sweater at Dior.
- B. Meanwhile, over at the Bourse, Emmanuel Ungaro was performing magic with rabbit, turning that most unendangered of species into leopard and ermine.
- C. And not just sheep's, but pretty much every legally scalpable animal's under the sun.
- D. After all, everywhere they looked there were women in sheep's clothing.

6. Presto: an environmentally-mixed jungle.

1. CBDA
2. BCDA
3. DCAB
4. BACD

79. 1. There is surprisingly little scope for squeezing more money out of luxury brands.

- A. And many luxury-goods companies, once run by families or founders, have brought in professional managers.
- B. Cutting advertising spending can also backfire: two-thirds of luxury brands that cut spending by more than 10% in the most recent recession later went out of business.
- C. Going downmarket can bring in more customers in the short term, but, as Heuer has found to its cost, discounts can cheapen a brand.

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- D Most of the obvious brand extensions, such as perfume have been done to death, points out Cedric Magnolia of Credit Suisse First Boston
- 6 The hope is that John Idol brought in from Ralph Lauren in 1997 will do better for Donna Karan than did its eponymous founder
- 1 CBDA 2 DCBA
3 BCDA 4 ABCD
- 80 1 Internet trading is no longer just about better deals for retail investors
- A Broker owned ECNs such as Island and Archipelago have stolen trading volume from traditional market makers
- B But so far they have been limited largely to shares listed on Nasdaq
- C ECNs have made rapid progress
- D Now the electronic revolution is affecting the nature of the market place itself
- 6 But now they want to take on the daddy of them all the NYSE
- 1 ABDC 2 BADC
3 DCAB 4 DCBA
- 81 1 It is not that the British are going off their curry
- A First generation immigrants from the sub continent were only too happy to open restaurants and to work long hours in uncomfortable conditions
- B Many want professional careers
- C The problem is that you just can't get the staff nowadays
- D Their children are less keen
- 6 And while French or Italian restaurants can easily ship in new staff from Europe thanks to the European Union Indian restaurants face the formidable hurdle of British immigration law
- 1 CADB 2 BDAC
3 DBCA 4 ABDC
- 82 1 From Jac Nasser's window you can see the motor town that Henry Ford built
- A The skyline is dominated by the chimneys of his old River Rouge steel mill and the iron guts of Detroit
- B On a window sill sit two monitors displaying the websites of Ford and its competitors
- C CNBC business news burbles in the background share prices and charts flicker a coffee machine wheezes in a corner
- D But the office of Ford's chief executive could not be less industrial eight television screens line the back wall above a bench with an open lap-top
- 6 The most talked about chief executive in America espresso in hand is at work in a wired post modern palace
- 1 ABDC 2 BADC
3 DABC 4 ADBC
- 83 1 There have recently been some shocking revelations in the capital of the free world
- A And proving that no American secret is now safe it has discovered that two good ways to influence decisions in Washington or at least to throw a spanner in the works are to send money furtively to the party likeliest to hold the presidency and to talk a lot about how American firms might soon be allowed to sell more goods and services in China
- B Apparently China has a nuclear arsenal that is inferior to that of the Americans and its government concluded after much study that the best way to narrow the gap would be to sneak a peek at some of America's blueprints
- C It is claimed, on good authority that China has been spying on the United States
- D Why might this be?
- 6 Clearly, these Chinese are not the paragons of virtue that they were made out to be during Asia's currency crisis
- 1 CDBA 2 ADCB
3 CABD 4 DBCA

Directions for Q 84-90 Spot the odd word in the given group of words

- 84 1 neophyte 2 neighbour
3 tyro 4 novice
- 85 1 riposte 2 repartee
3 risque 4 witicism
- 86 1 rotund 2 rostrum
3 circular 4 spherical
- 87 1 serenade 2 promenade
3 mall 4 esplanade
- 88 1 obsequious 2 unctuous
3 senile 4 martinet
- 89 1 beatify 2 beautiful
3 elegant 4 glorious
- 90 1 choice 2 volition
3 voting 4 option

SECTION B

One Hour

PART—I

Directions for Q 91-95

Each question is independent of others

91 A cube has an edge of 4 cm It is then split up into cubes with edges of 2 cm What is the total surface area of the smaller cubes?

- 1 32 cm² 2 64 cm²
3 96 cm 4 192 cm²

92 A photocopy machine copies 1 500 workbooks in 8 hours while another machine takes 12 hours to do the same job What is the total number of hours that it would take both the machines working together to complete the 1 500 workbooks?

- 1 4 4 hours 2 4 6 hours
3 4 8 hours 4 5 hours

93 In a military code data are communicated as per one of the following rules

- A Multiply by 2 and divide by 3
B Square and add 1
C Divide by 2 and add 3
D Divide by 2 and multiply by 3

Which rule has been used to communicate data in the following series

33 333 393 1266

- 1 Series A 2 Series B
3 Series C 4 Series C or D

94 Out of nine zinc balls of equal size eight balls are of equal weight but the weight of one is less than that of each of the others The least number of trials by a weighing balance that can isolate the odd ball is

- 1 1 2 2 3 3 4 8

95 A five digit number is formed by using digits 1 3 5 7 and 9 without repeating any of them What is the sum of all such possible numbers?

- 1 6666600 2 6666660 3 6666666 4 None of these

Directions for Q 96-97

A function $f(x)$ is defined as:

$$f(-x) = f(x) \quad \text{even}$$

$$f(-x) = -f(x) \quad \text{odd}$$

Thus $f(x) = x^2$ is even while the function $f(x) = x^3$ is odd Using this information answer the following questions

96 The function $f(x) = |x|^3$ is

- 1 even 2 odd
3 neither 4 both

97 The sum of two odd functions

- 1 is always an even function
2 is always an odd function
3 is sometimes odd and sometimes even
4 may be neither odd nor even

Directions for Q. 98-99

At X company, an employee gets a holiday on those days whose

first letter is the same as the first letter of the employee's name. All other days are working days. For instance, William gets a holiday on each Wednesday. Assume that the daily productivity of all employees is the same.

98 Raja started the work on Sunday, February 25, 1996 and finished it on March 2, 1996. If Tom and Jerry were assigned this task on February 25, 1996, when will the work have been completed?

- 1 February 26, 1996
- 2 March 1, 1996
- 3 February 28, 1996
- 4 Tom and Jerry cannot possibly work together

99 If Raja had actually completed the work on April 2, 1996, and if Tom and Shyam were assigned the same task on the same starting day, when will the work have been completed?

- 1 March 1, 1996
- 2 March 22, 1996
- 3 March 29, 1996
- 4 April 2, 1996

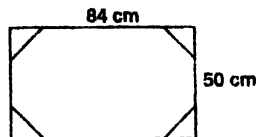
Directions for Q. 100-105

Each question is independent of others

100 A certain culture of bacteria quadruples every hour. If a container with these bacteria was half full at 10:00 am, at what time was it one-eighth full?

- 1 9:00 am
- 2 7:00 am
- 3 6:00 am
- 4 4:00 am

101



The figure above represents a rectangular desk blotter in a holder with dimensions as shown. If the side of each corner is 8 cm, find the area of the blotter that is visible.

- 1 4200 cm
- 2 4184 cm²
- 3 4124 cm²
- 4 4072 cm²

102 A man runs $\frac{4}{5}$ of the distance around a circular track in m minutes. At the same rate, how many minutes does it take him to run around the entire track?

- 1 $\frac{m}{4}$
- 2 $\frac{5m}{4}$
- 3 $\frac{4m}{4}$
- 4 $\frac{5}{4m}$

103 When an integer n is divided by 17, the quotient is x and the remainder is 5. When n is divided by 23, the quotient is y and the remainder is 14. Which of the following is true?

- 1 $23x + 17y = 19$
- 2 $17x + 23y = 9$
- 3 $17x + 23y = 19$
- 4 $14x + 5y = 6$

104 Two poles of height 6 m and 11 m stand vertically on a plane ground. If the distance between their feet is 12 m, the distance between their tops is

- 1 13 m
- 2 17 m
- 3 23 m
- 4 27 m

105



The outline of an ice-cream shop is shown above, and is made by placing $\frac{3}{4}$ of the circumference with radius 2 feet on top of an isosceles triangle with height 5 feet. What is the perimeter of the sign?

- 1 $3\pi + 3\sqrt{3}$ ft
- 2 $3\pi + 6\sqrt{3}$ ft
- 3 $3\pi + 2\sqrt{33}$ ft
- 4 $4\pi + 3\sqrt{3}$ ft

Directions for Q. 106-108:

Six friends Aruna, Bharti, Chandrika, Divya, Edna and Farida are singing a song facing the audience, standing in a line.

Edna is between Bharti and Aruna

Divya is to the right of Aruna

Chandrika and Edna have one girl between them

Farida is not near Chandrika

106 Who is on the right corner?

- 1 Aruna
- 2 Bharti
- 3 Chandrika
- 4 Farida

107 Bharti is between

- 1 Edna and Chandrika
- 2 Edna and Divya
- 3 Farida and Edna
- 4 Chandrika and Divya

108 Which of the following statements is false?

- 1 Chandrika is on the left corner
- 2 Divya is between Farida and Aruna
- 3 Bharti and Divya have two girls between them
- 4 Chandrika is not near Bharti

Directions for Q. 109-110:

A thief flees city A in a car towards city B on a stretch of straight road, 300 km long, at a speed of 60 km/hr. In 15 minutes a police party X leaves city A to chase the thief at 65 km/hr.

109 After leaving, how long does it take for the police party X to catch the thief?

- 1 2 hrs 45 min
- 2 3 hrs
- 3 3 hrs 15 min
- 4 none of these

110 If a police party Y were to leave city B at the same time a police party X leaving city A to catch the thief at 60 km/hr, then which of the following statements is true?

- 1 Party X reaches 37.5 minutes after Party Y has caught the thief
- 2 Party Y reaches 37.5 minutes after Party X has caught the thief
- 3 Party X and Party Y caught the thief together
- 4 Party X was 20 km when the thief was caught

Directions for Q. 111-120:

Each question is independent of others.

111 For any odd positive integer $x > 1$, the quantity $x(x^2 - 1)$ is always divisible by

- 1 14
- 2 48
- 3 24
- 4 none of these

112



The triangles in the figure above are equilateral and the ratio of the length of the side of the larger triangle to the length of the side of smaller triangle is 2:1. If the area of the larger triangle is x , what is the area of the shaded region in terms of x ?

- 1 $\frac{3}{4}x$
- 2 $\frac{2}{3}x$
- 3 $\frac{1}{2}x$
- 4 $\frac{1}{3}x$

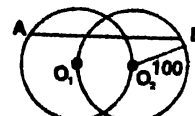
113 A special printer can print 40 characters per second, which is 4 times as fast as an average printer. If an average printer can print 5 times as fast as an electric typewriter, how many characters per minute can an electronic typewriter print?

- 1 2
- 2 32
- 3 50
- 4 120

114 A person is standing on a staircase. He walks down 4 steps, up 3 steps, down 6 steps, up 2 steps, up 9 steps, and down 2 steps. Where is he standing in relation to the step on which he started?

- 1 2 steps above
- 2 1 step above
- 3 the same place
- 4 1 step below

115



In the above figure, two circles of radii 100 ft each intersect as shown. The distance from the centres to the chord AB is 60 feet. Find AB.

1. 280 ft 2. 240 ft 3. 220 ft 4. 200 ft

116. A person sells two buffaloes for Rs 9900 each. His total loss in the transaction is 1%. If he sells one of the buffaloes at 10% loss, what is the profit or loss of the other buffalo?

1. 11% loss 2. 21% loss 3. 9% gain 4. 10% gain

117. The ratio of marks obtained by Prashant in History, Geography and Science is 3 : 7 : 11 respectively. The total marks obtained by him in Geography and Science together is 360. How many marks did he obtain in history?

1. 90 2. 60 3. 140 4. none of these

118. The number just preceding 9909 which is a perfect square is:

1. 9908 2. 9900 3. 9899 4. 9801

119. A frog tries to come out of a well 9 m deep with slippery walls. Every time it jumps 60 cm, it slides back 30 cm. How many jumps will the frog have to make to come out of the well?

1. 20 2. 29 3. 30 4. 31

120. One litre of water is poured into each of two containers of equal height. The first container A has a circular cross section of radius 2 cm and the other B has a square cross section with side of 4 cm. In which container will the water rise to a greater height?

1. container A
2. container B
3. equal in both
4. depends on the rate at which water is poured

Directions for Q. 121-123:

Two persons decide to go for a walk from A to B and back. They started from A at 6.30 am at a speed of 6 km/hr but as B was at a height and they were growing tired, after every kilometre their speed decreased by 1 km per hour, till they reached B. However, during their journey back from B to A, they maintained their speed of the last kilometre they had covered between A and B. The distance between A and B was 4 km.

121. At what time did they reach B?

1. 7.27 am 2. 7.29 am
3. 7.31 am 4. 7.30 am

122. If they rested at B for 15 minutes, at what time did they return to A after completing their walk?

1. 8.54 am 2. 9.14 am
3. 9.02 am 4. none of these

123. What was their speed on the return journey?

1. 2 km/hr 2. 3 km/hr
3. 4 km/hr 4. 5 km/hr

Directions for Q. 124-125:

There are four positive integers p, q, r and s. All of them are two-digit numbers. Two of them are odd and two are even.

124. Which of the following is necessarily even?

1. $p + q + r - s$ 2. pq
3. $p + q - r$ 4. $p + q + r$

125. Which of the following cannot be equal to zero?

1. $pqr - 2s$ 2. $p + q - 2r - 2s$
3. $p - q - r - s$ 4. $pqr - pq$

Directions for Q. 126-130:

The following table gives data of some students:

	Performance			Total
	Average	Good	Excellent	
Male			10	
Female				32
Total		30		

It is also known that:

1. Half the students were either excellent or good.
2. 40% of the students were female
3. One-third of the male students were average.

Based on the above, answer the following questions:

126. How many students are both female and excellent?

1. 0 2. 8 3. 16 4. 32

127. What proportion of good students are male?

1. 0 2. 0.73 3. 0.4 4. 1.0

128. What proportion of female students are good?

1. 0 2. 0.25 3. 0.5 4. 1.0

129. How many students are both male and good?

1. 10 2. 16 3. 22 4. 48

130. Among average students, what is the ratio of male to female?

1. 1 : 2 2. 2 : 1 3. 3 : 2 4. 2 : 3

Directions for Q. 131-135:

Each question is followed by two statements. You have to decide whether the information provided in the statements is sufficient for answering the questions.

Mark 1: If the question can be answered by using one of the statements alone, but cannot be answered using the other statement alone.

Mark 2: If the question can be answered using either statement alone.

Mark 3: If the question can be answered by using both statements together, but cannot be answered using either statement alone.

Mark 4: If the question cannot be answered by using both statements together.

131. What is $2 @ 3$?

A. $a @ b$ is not necessarily equal to $b @ a$ for two integers a and b,
 $1 @ 2 = 3$

B. $a @ b = \frac{(a+b)}{a}$ for $a \neq 0$.

132. If x and y are integers between 10 and 99, inclusive, is $\frac{x-y}{9}$ an integer?

A. x and y have the same two digits, but in reverse order.

B. The ten's digit of x is 2 more than unit's digit, and the ten's digit of y is 2 less than the unit's digit.

133. Two sides of a triangle are 3 and 5 and x is the third side. What is its area?

A. $a^2 + 9 = 25$

B. One angle is 90°

134. Is $x > y$?

A. $0 < x < 0.75$

B. $0.25 < y < 1.0$

135. If the ratio of the men to women employed by a company in 1975 was 1 : 2, what is the ratio of men to women employed by the company in 1976?

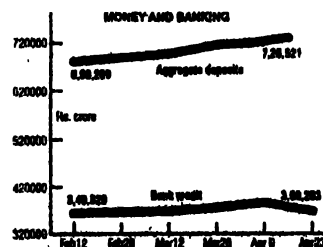
A. The company employed 20 more women in 1976 than in 1975.

B. The company employed 20 more men in 1976 than in 1975.

PART—II

Directions for Q. 136-142:

Refer to the graph below and answer the questions that follow:



136. What is the growth in aggregate deposits from Feb 12 to April 23?

1. 3.50% 2. 4.5% 3. 5.10% 4. 6.00%

137 The percentage of bank credit to aggregate deposits as on March 26 is

- 1 33 33% 2 47 33% 3 50 75% 4 52 25%

138 Given below are three statements. Select from the choices given the TRUE statements

- I The growth in aggregate deposits has been more than the growth bank credit over the given period
II The percentage of bank credit to aggregate deposits has declined over the given period
III The growth of bank credit follows the same trend as growth in aggregate deposits

- 1 only I 2 only II 3 only III 4 None is true

139 If the CRR (percentage of deposits to be kept as reserves by banks) is 12% what is the amount of money which is lying unproductive in banks as on April 23?

- 1 Rs 2701265 crore 2 Rs 3001685 crore
3 Rs 2803733 crore 4 Rs 270165 crore

140 If the trend of the period April 9 April 23 continues what would be the bank credit as on May 7?

- 1 Rs 3 68 x 10⁵ crore 2 Rs 3 65 x 10⁴ crore
3 Rs 3 66 x 10⁵ crore 4 none of these

141 The highest increase in bank credit has been over which of the following periods?

- 1 Feb 12 Feb 26 2 Feb 26 Mar 12
3 Mar 26 Apr 9 4 none of these

142 The most likely figure for aggregate deposits as on March 19 is

- 1 Rs 700795 crore 2 Rs 707895 crore
3 Rs 713590 crore 4 Rs 716795 crore

Directions Q 143-150

Refer to the table given below.

Collections of income tax and tax deduction at source

Year	Deducted at source (TDS) (Rs crore)	Gross collections (Rs crore)	Total refund (Rs crore)	Net collections (Rs crore)
1980-81	745	3185	368	2817
1985-86	898	3889	653	3236
1986-87	1496	6829	867	5962
1987-88	2276	7703	1078	6625
1988-89	2704	9794	1150	8644
1989-90	4350	11754	2031	9723
1990-91	4083	13463	2773	10690
1991-92	5976	17991	3409	14582
1992-93	6210	21164	3654	17510
1993-94	7283	24566	5387	19179
1994-95	9604	30537	4686	25851

143 TDS as a percentage of net collections for 1990-91 is

- 1 40% 2 39 40% 3 38 19% 4 37 30%

144 The maximum growth in net collections has been for which of the following years?

- 1 1980-81 2 1986-87 3 1991-92 4 1994-95

145 Refunds as a percentage of TDS collected has been lowest for which of the following years?

- 1 1988-89 2 1989-90 3 1992-93 4 1994-95

146 If the tax rate is assumed to be a flat 20%, what is the approximate total taxable income in India for the year 1994-95?

- 1 Rs 32,000 crore 2 Rs 35,000 crore
3 Rs 37,500 crore 4 cannot be determined

147 The actual tax collected through TDS (given by TDS minus refunds) is what percentage of gross collection for the year 1993-94?

- 1 5 6% 2 8 0% 3 7 6% 4 9%

148 The average annual TDS collected over the period 1980-1989 is.

- 1 Rs 902 crore 2 Rs 898 crore
3 Rs 1012 crore 4 cannot be determined

149 Which of the following statements can be inferred from the data?

- I The gross taxable income has been continuously increasing in India over the years
II The per capita income in India is continuously rising
III The number of people in the tax bracket has been continuously increasing

- 1 Only I 2 Only II 3 Only III 4 none of the above

150 Which of the following statements are true?

- I The trend of the net collections is increasing over the years
II The trend of TDS collected over the years has been continuously increasing
III The maximum increase in gross collections has been in the year 1994-95

- 1 I & II 2 I & III 3 II & III 4 all are true

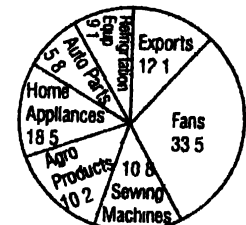
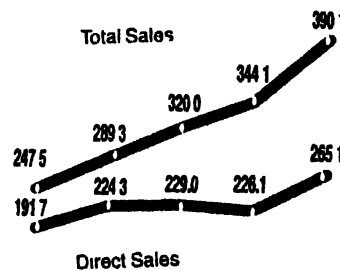
Directions for Q. 151-159

Refer to the following charts, which give ABC's financial figures.

ABC's financial figure (in crores)

SALES BREAK-UP

Rupee Sales by production group in per cent



Net Profit

24	19	38	3.6	54
1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99

151 The percentage growth in total sales from 1997-98 to 1998-99 has been

- 1 12 5% 2 13 3% 3 14 5% 4 15 3%

152 If the trend in sales from 1997-98 continued for the next two years, what will be the company's total sales in 1999-2000?

- 1 Rs 420 crore 2 Rs 430 crore
3 Rs 440 crore 4 Rs 450 crore

153 During 1997-98, the sales of the company from all other sources apart from direct sales was

- 1 Rs 108 crore 2 Rs 118 crore
3 Rs 128 crore 4 cannot be calculated

154 The percentage of net profit to sales has been highest for the year

- 1 1994-95 2 1996-97 3 1997-98 4 1998-99

155 For the year 1998-99 what percentage of sales did not come from direct sales?

- 1 36% 2 35% 3 33 33% 4 32 3%

156 If the growth of sales is considered over 1997-99, what percentage of sales are coming from sources other than direct sales?

- 1 1 8% 2 34% 3 18% 4 68%

157 For every rupee of direct sales in 1998-99 what is the amount of net profit earned?

- 1 2 03 paise 2 20 03 paise
3 33 33 paise 4 cannot be calculated

158 The sales of sewing machines for the company in 1998-99 were

- 1 Rs 40 crore 2 Rs 39 crore 3 Rs 42 crore 4 Rs 41 crore

159 If the product mix of the company remained same over the years,

the exports of the company for 1995-96 were

- 1 Rs 35 crore 2 Rs 36 crore
3 Rs 37 crore 4 Rs 40 crore

Directions for Q 160-161

Refer to the data below:

It took a group of men 5 days to shift 545 crates. Every day after the first, 6 more men than the previous day were put on the job. Also, every day after the first, each man shifted 5 fewer crates than the earlier day. The result was that during the latter part of the period, the number of crates shifted per day, began to go down.

160 What was the number of crates shifted on the third day?

- 1 137 2 169 3 26 4 109

161 What was the number of men on the fifth day?

- 1 13 2 1 3 19 4 none of these

Directions for Q 162-165

Six friends Ramesh, Dinesh, Lokesh, Niles, Shailesh and Hitesh work in different companies, namely P, Q, R, S, T and U. Each one wears a company-sponsored different coloured tie—Blue, Pink, Green, Yellow, Purple and Red, though not in the same order.

We are also given the following facts:

- a) The one wearing the blue tie works in company S; the one wearing the green tie works in company P.
b) Hitesh does not work in R or T.
c) Ramesh wears a pink tie and works in Q.
d) Niles does not work in company T and purple colour tie is not sponsored by R.
e) Shailesh works in U but neither Niles nor Dinesh works in S.
f) Company T does not sponsor purple or yellow ties and Lokesh works in P.

162 Which colour is sponsored by R?

- 1 Blue 2 purple 3 red 4 none of these

163 Which of the following combinations is correct?

- 1 Green—R—Lokesh
2 Blue—S—Lokesh
3 Red—T—Dinesh
4 Yellow—R—Shailesh

164 Which of the following is true?

- 1 U sponsors the green tie 2 Shailesh wears a red tie
3 Niles works in T 4 Red colour is sponsored by T

165 Which of the following sequences of companies represent Ramesh, Dinesh, Lokesh, Niles, Shailesh, Hitesh in the same order?

- 1 QPTRUS 2 QTPRUS 3 QPTSUR 4 QTPSUR

Directions for Q 166-167

A classroom of children went on a picnic to a fair where 3 rides were available—the giant wheel, the merry-go-round and the star ride.

28 children took the giant wheel.

23 children took the merry go round.

19 children took the star ride.

11 children took the giant wheel and merry go round.

9 children took the giant wheel and star ride.

8 children took the merry go round and the star ride.

There was no student who took the star ride only.

166 The number of children who went on the picnic were

- 1 38 2 40 3 42 4 44

167 If each ride costs Re 1, the total bill for the picnic was

- 1 Rs 66 2 Rs 60 3 Rs 70 4 Rs 81

Directions for Q 168-172

Study the graphs and answer the questions that follow:



Population data in 1992

State	Sex (Ratio)		Literacy (R)	
	M	F	Literate	Illiterate
UP	5	3	2	7
Bihar	3	1	1	4
AP	2	3	2	1
Karnataka	3	5	3	2
Maharashtra	3	1	5	1
Tamil Nadu	3	2	7	2
Kerala	1	4	9	4

Total population 25 lakh

168 What is the approximate total number of literates in Maharashtra and Karnataka?

- 1 4.5 lakh 2 6.5 lakh 3 3 lakh 4 3.5 lakh

169 The number of males in UP, Maharashtra and Kerala together is approx. what percentage of the total population of all the given States?

- 1 20% 2 28% 3 30% 4 25%

170 If there was a 10% increase in the population of UP and 12% increase in the population of Bihar in 1993 from the previous year, what was the ratio of the population of UP to Bihar in 1993?

- 1 50:40 2 40:50 3 48:55 4 none of these

171 The number of females in AP is approximately what percentage of number of females in Tamil Nadu?

- 1 90% 2 110% 3 120% 4 85%

172 What is the ratio of the number of females in Tamil Nadu to the number of females in Kerala?

- 1 1:2 2 1:1 3 2:1 4 2:3

Directions for Q 173-180

Each question is followed by 2 statements. You have to decide whether the information provided in the statements is sufficient for answering the questions.

Mark 1 If the question can be answered by using one of the statements alone but cannot be answered by using the other statement alone.

Mark 2 If the question can be answered using either statement alone.

Mark 3 If the question can be answered by using both statements together but cannot be answered using either statement alone.

Mark 4 If the question cannot be answered even by using both statements together.

173 What are the ages of three brothers?

- A The product of their ages is 21.
B The sum of their ages is not divisible by 3.

174 Twenty girls competed in a race. The names of those who got the first five placings were in the alphabetic order. Who came first?

- A Girja and Devaki were ahead of at least 15 others.
B Manisha finished ahead of 17 girls.

175 The combined weight of 3 children is 90 kg. What is the weight of the heaviest child?

- A One of the children weighs 45 kg.
B One of the children weighs 30 kg.

176 Five persons sat at a circular five seater table. Did Grace sit next to Billy?

- A Geeta sat between Sohan and Rohan.
B Grace sat next to Rohan.

177 How much did Shyama weigh before her diet programme?

- A She lost 10 kg. B She now weighs 23/25 of her former weight.

178 X and Y are two hollow tubes made of cement. The volume of cement in tube X is 1000 units. What is the volume of cement in tube Y?

- A X and Y have the same length. B X and Y have the same thickness.

179 Is the triangle ABC equilateral?

- A AB = BC B Sum of two angles is 110 degrees

180 What is the area of a regular hexagon?

- A The length of the boundary line of the hexagon is 36 cm.

- B The area of the hexagon is 6 times the area of an equilateral triangle formed on one of the sides.

Answer Sheet : Mock-CAT-99

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Use HB pencil only.
- Erase completely to change responses.
- Darken the square fully.
- Do not make any stray marks on this sheet.

THE AREA BELOW IS FOR MARKING ANSWERS ONLY

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	☐	☐	☐	☐	57.	☐	☐	☐	☐	113.	☐	☐	☐	☐	147.	☐	☐	☐	☐
2.	☐	☐	☐	☐	58.	☐	☐	☐	☐	114.	☐	☐	☐	☐	148.	☐	☐	☐	☐
3.	☐	☐	☐	☐	59.	☐	☐	☐	☐	115.	☐	☐	☐	☐	149.	☐	☐	☐	☐
4.	☐	☐	☐	☐	60.	☐	☐	☐	☐	116.	☐	☐	☐	☐	150.	☐	☐	☐	☐
5.	☐	☐	☐	☐	61.	☐	☐	☐	☐	117.	☐	☐	☐	☐	151.	☐	☐	☐	☐
6.	☐	☐	☐	☐	62.	☐	☐	☐	☐	118.	☐	☐	☐	☐	152.	☐	☐	☐	☐
7.	☐	☐	☐	☐	63.	☐	☐	☐	☐	119.	☐	☐	☐	☐	153.	☐	☐	☐	☐
8.	☐	☐	☐	☐	64.	☐	☐	☐	☐	120.	☐	☐	☐	☐	154.	☐	☐	☐	☐
9.	☐	☐	☐	☐	65.	☐	☐	☐	☐	121.	☐	☐	☐	☐	155.	☐	☐	☐	☐
10.	☐	☐	☐	☐	66.	☐	☐	☐	☐	122.	☐	☐	☐	☐	156.	☐	☐	☐	☐
11.	☐	☐	☐	☐	67.	☐	☐	☐	☐	123.	☐	☐	☐	☐	157.	☐	☐	☐	☐
12.	☐	☐	☐	☐	68.	☐	☐	☐	☐	124.	☐	☐	☐	☐	158.	☐	☐	☐	☐
13.	☐	☐	☐	☐	69.	☐	☐	☐	☐	125.	☐	☐	☐	☐	159.	☐	☐	☐	☐
14.	☐	☐	☐	☐	70.	☐	☐	☐	☐	126.	☐	☐	☐	☐	160.	☐	☐	☐	☐
15.	☐	☐	☐	☐	71.	☐	☐	☐	☐	127.	☐	☐	☐	☐	161.	☐	☐	☐	☐
16.	☐	☐	☐	☐	72.	☐	☐	☐	☐	128.	☐	☐	☐	☐	162.	☐	☐	☐	☐
17.	☐	☐	☐	☐	73.	☐	☐	☐	☐	129.	☐	☐	☐	☐	163.	☐	☐	☐	☐
18.	☐	☐	☐	☐	74.	☐	☐	☐	☐	130.	☐	☐	☐	☐	164.	☐	☐	☐	☐
19.	☐	☐	☐	☐	75.	☐	☐	☐	☐	131.	☐	☐	☐	☐	165.	☐	☐	☐	☐
20.	☐	☐	☐	☐	76.	☐	☐	☐	☐	132.	☐	☐	☐	☐	166.	☐	☐	☐	☐
21.	☐	☐	☐	☐	77.	☐	☐	☐	☐	133.	☐	☐	☐	☐	167.	☐	☐	☐	☐
22.	☐	☐	☐	☐	78.	☐	☐	☐	☐	134.	☐	☐	☐	☐	168.	☐	☐	☐	☐
23.	☐	☐	☐	☐	79.	☐	☐	☐	☐	135.	☐	☐	☐	☐	169.	☐	☐	☐	☐
24.	☐	☐	☐	☐	80.	☐	☐	☐	☐	136.	☐	☐	☐	☐	170.	☐	☐	☐	☐
25.	☐	☐	☐	☐	81.	☐	☐	☐	☐	137.	☐	☐	☐	☐	171.	☐	☐	☐	☐
26.	☐	☐	☐	☐	82.	☐	☐	☐	☐	138.	☐	☐	☐	☐	172.	☐	☐	☐	☐
27.	☐	☐	☐	☐	83.	☐	☐	☐	☐	139.	☐	☐	☐	☐	173.	☐	☐	☐	☐
28.	☐	☐	☐	☐	84.	☐	☐	☐	☐	140.	☐	☐	☐	☐	174.	☐	☐	☐	☐
29.	☐	☐	☐	☐	85.	☐	☐	☐	☐	141.	☐	☐	☐	☐	175.	☐	☐	☐	☐
30.	☐	☐	☐	☐	86.	☐	☐	☐	☐	142.	☐	☐	☐	☐	176.	☐	☐	☐	☐
31.	☐	☐	☐	☐	87.	☐	☐	☐	☐	143.	☐	☐	☐	☐	177.	☐	☐	☐	☐
32.	☐	☐	☐	☐	88.	☐	☐	☐	☐	144.	☐	☐	☐	☐	178.	☐	☐	☐	☐
33.	☐	☐	☐	☐	89.	☐	☐	☐	☐	145.	☐	☐	☐	☐	179.	☐	☐	☐	☐
34.	☐	☐	☐	☐	90.	☐	☐	☐	☐	146.	☐	☐	☐	☐	180.	☐	☐	☐	☐
35.	☐	☐	☐	☐	91.	☐	☐	☐	☐										
36.	☐	☐	☐	☐	92.	☐	☐	☐	☐										
37.	☐	☐	☐	☐	93.	☐	☐	☐	☐										
38.	☐	☐	☐	☐	94.	☐	☐	☐	☐										
39.	☐	☐	☐	☐	95.	☐	☐	☐	☐										
40.	☐	☐	☐	☐	96.	☐	☐	☐	☐										
41.	☐	☐	☐	☐	97.	☐	☐	☐	☐										
42.	☐	☐	☐	☐	98.	☐	☐	☐	☐										
43.	☐	☐	☐	☐	99.	☐	☐	☐	☐										
44.	☐	☐	☐	☐	100.	☐	☐	☐	☐										
45.	☐	☐	☐	☐	101.	☐	☐	☐	☐										
46.	☐	☐	☐	☐	102.	☐	☐	☐	☐										
47.	☐	☐	☐	☐	103.	☐	☐	☐	☐										
48.	☐	☐	☐	☐	104.	☐	☐	☐	☐										
49.	☐	☐	☐	☐	105.	☐	☐	☐	☐										
50.	☐	☐	☐	☐	106.	☐	☐	☐	☐										
51.	☐	☐	☐	☐	107.	☐	☐	☐	☐										
52.	☐	☐	☐	☐	108.	☐	☐	☐	☐										
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56.	☐	☐	☐	☐	112.	☐	☐	☐	☐										

Name : _____

Address : _____

Enclosed D.D. No.: _____

Dated : _____ for Rupees 100/- only.

Send your entry to:

**The Competition Master,
MOCK-CAT-99
126, Industrial Area-I, Chandigarh**

How Well have You Read CM?

The following questions are based on the October '99 issue of THE COMPETITION MASTER. They will help you revise current affairs. If you do not know certain answers, do make an effort to locate them in the last issue. Answers to this quiz will be published in the next issue.

1. Who among the following is the winner of the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, 1999?

- a) Jyotirmoyee Sikdar
- b) Sachin Tendulkar
- c) Mahesh Bhupathi
- d) Rahul Dravid

2. In which State is the constituency of Bellary, from where Sonia Gandhi fought the elections against BJP's Sushma Swaraj, situated:

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Karnataka
- d) Kerala

3. How many women members were there in the 12th Lok Sabha?

- a) 40
- b) 41
- c) 42
- d) 43

4. Name the republic in Russia which is fighting a separatist war?

- a) Uzbekistan
- b) Dagestan
- c) Kazakhstan
- d) Chechnya

5. Who among the following is the author of the book, "The Company of Women"?

- a) Arundhati Roy
- b) Rajkamal Jha
- c) Mulk Raj Anand
- d) Khushwant Singh

6. What is the name of the capital of East Timor?

- a) Jakarta
- b) East Timor
- c) Dili
- d) Bishkek

7. Name the committee appointed to probe into the murder of the Christian missionary Graham Staines?

- a) Subramanyam
- b) Wadhwa
- c) Verma
- d) Dave

8. What was the level of software exports of India in the year 1998-99?

- a) Rs 8,730 crore
- b) Rs 10,490 crore
- c) Rs 11,950 crore
- d) Rs 12,800 crore

9. Name the first State to put its electoral rolls and constituency profiles on a CD-ROM?

- a) Sikkim
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Haryana
- d) Kerala

10. What was the name of the Pakistani plane that was shot down over the Runn of Kutch in Gujarat?

- a) McDonald Douglas
- b) Boeing
- c) MiG
- d) Atlantique

11. The film, "A Brilliant Sun" is based on the life of which of the following industrialists?

- a) Aditya Vikram Birla
- b) G.D. Birla
- c) Kumar Mangalam Birla
- d) Radhey Shyam Birla

12. What is India's GDP in Rs crore?

- a) 11,70,000
- b) 18,70,000
- c) 17,70,000
- d) 16,70,000

13. On which of the following dates was Hiroshima Day observed?

- a) August 15, 1999
- b) August 6, 1999
- c) August 27, 1999
- d) September 7, 1999

14. What is the estimated GDP growth rate, according to RBI's annual report for 1998-99?

- a) 5%
- b) 6-6.5%
- c) 7%
- d) 7.5%

15. Which is the world's biggest company?

- a) General Motors
- b) Honda
- c) Coca Cola
- d) Ford

16. Which of the following countries is the top foreign investor in India?

- a) UK
- b) Germany
- c) Japan
- d) USA

17. What is the level of black money in India, in Rs crore, according to a report by Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research?

- a) 2,89,000
- b) 3,00,000

- c) 3,54,000
- d) 8,54,000

18. What is India's rank in the Human Development Report (HDR) of the UNDP for 1998?

- a) 54
- b) 87
- c) 132
- d) 154

19. On which date was Mahatma Gandhi born?

- a) October 2, 1903
- b) October 2, 1896
- c) October 2, 1859
- d) October 2, 1869

20. Which of the following States/ Union Territories recorded the lowest density of population in the 1991 census?

- a) Sikkim
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Nagaland
- d) Mizoram

21. The National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) is headed by:

- a) Brajesh Mishra
- b) J.P. Wadhwa
- c) K. Subhramanyam
- d) K. Krishnamurthy

22. In which country would you find the city of Izmit?

- a) Turkey
- b) Iran
- c) Iraq
- d) CIS

23. In which State is the Ministry of Environment creating the largest tiger habitat in the country, covering more than 5,000 square kilometres?

- a) UP
- b) MP
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Gujarat

24. Name the car developed by Honda which has the world's lowest fuel consumption of 35 km per litre?

- a) Prius
- b) Zigma
- c) Solara
- d) Insight

(Answers will appear in our December issue)

Answers to October 1999 Quiz

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. c | 2. d | 3. a | 4. d |
| 5. c | 6. a | 7. b | 8. b |
| 9. d | 10. c | 11. a | 12. a |
| 13. b | 14. b | 15. c | 16. d |
| 17. b | 18. d | 19. c | 20. a |
| 21. b | 22. d | 23. b | 24. c |

Test of Reasoning-1

Qs. 1-6. Find the odd-man out:

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------|
| 1. (1) DEGI | (2) PQSV | (3) WXZC |
| (4) QSUW | (5) MNPS | |
| 2. (1) TRNP | (2) LJFH | (3) SQLN |
| (4) GEAC | (5) PNJL | |
| 3. (1) DBWY | (2) HFSU | (3) GETV |
| (4) MKNP | (5) JHSQ | |
| 4. (1) XWZY | (2) LKON | (3) QPSR |
| (4) TSVU | (5) KJML | |
| 5. (1) HD4 | (2) PJ6 | (3) UQ4 |
| (4) ME8 | (5) WK9 | |
| 6. (1) NG8M | (2) FM11H | (3) JB9E |
| (4) WZ31R | (5) EL6K | |

Qs. 7 to 10 are based on the arrangement of letters in the word IMAGINATION.

7. How many sets of two letters have as many letters between them as they have in the alphabets?

- (1) 1 (2) 2 (3) 3 (4) 4
(5) None of these

8. If the letters used in the word were arranged in alphabetical order, (letters used more than once would be counted as one only), which letter would be exactly in the middle?

- (1) M (2) N (3) G (4) I
(5) None of these

9. Which letter in the word is exactly in the middle of 8th letter from your left and 6th letter from your right?

- (1) M (2) A (3) I (4) G
(5) None of these

10. If all the eleven letters of the word were to be arranged alphabetically, how many letters will still remain where they are?

- (1) 1 (2) 2 (3) 3 (4) 4
(5) None of these

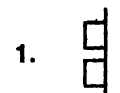
In questions 11 to 15, four out of five given words are similar in a way, while one is different. You have to find this odd-man out:

- | | | |
|----------------|------------|------------|
| 11. (1) snarl | (2) growl | (3) gnash |
| (4) frown | (5) caress | |
| 12. (1) Taurus | (2) Gemini | (3) Zodiac |
| (4) Libra | (5) Cancer | |
| 13. (1) pi | (2) beta | (3) delta |
| (4) aorta | (5) gamma | |
| 14. (1) dram | (2) chain | (3) metre |
| (4) furlong | (5) inch | |
| 15. (1) yen | (2) dollar | (3) taka |
| (4) pound | (5) ounce | |

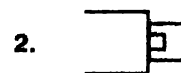
Qs. 16 to 20. In each of the following questions three elements have been mentioned. The same places are

represented by a combination of figures, each figure representing one of the elements. Your task is to match the right set of elements with the right figure.

16. Ganga : Yamuna : Allahabad



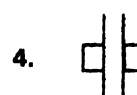
17. M.P. : Rajasthan : Chambal



18. Yamuna : Mathura : Agra



19. Taj Mahal : Delhi : Qutub Minar



20. Gateway of India : The Arabian Sea : Mumbai



In questions 21 to 25, each question has two items with a definite relationship between them. You have to find out from (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) the pair of words that has the same relationship between the two items as the ones given in the question.

21. latch : door

- (1) stone : floor (2) oar : boat (3) nib : pen
(4) window : wall (5) button : shirt

22. retina : eye

- (1) taste : tongue (2) petal : flower
(3) hand : foot (4) glass : drink
(5) cap : head

23. faction : political party

- (1) bronze : metal (2) friction : friendship
(3) war : countries (4) crime : law
(5) germ : disease

24. nightingale : cuckoo

- (1) dance : music (2) snake : tiger
(3) alligator : chameleon (4) cream : milk
(5) badminton : shuttle-cock

25. dragon : China

- (1) Dalai Lama : Tibet (2) Camel : desert
(3) voo-doo : Negroes (4) Sphinx : Egypt
(5) Kangaroo : Australia

NON-VERBAL SERIES

Given below are two sets of figures, the Problem Figures and the Answer Figures marked A, B, C, D and E. You have to find out which of the Answer Figures from A, B, C, D and E would be the next one in the series of the Problem Figures.

PROBLEM FIGURES

ANSWER FIGURES

	PROBLEM FIGURES					ANSWER FIGURES				
						A	B	C	D	E
26.										
27.										
28.										
29.										
30.										
31.										
32.										
33.										
34.										
35.										
36.										
37.										
38.										

					A	B	C	D	E
39.									
40.									
41.									
42.									
43.									
44.									
45.									
46.									
47.									
48.									
49.									
50.									
51.									
52.									

		A	B	C	D	E
53.						
54.						
55.						

In each of the following questions, the first two figures have a definite relationship. You have to find out from A, B, C, D and E, the figure that would have the same relationship with figure three as the second figure has with the first one.

	PROBLEM FIGURES				ANSWER FIGURES					
	I	II	III	IV	A	B	C	D	E	
56.				?						
57.				?						
58.				?						
59.				?						
60.				?						
61.				?						
62.				?						
63.				?						
64.				?						
65.				?						

Find the odd-man out:

	A	B	C	D	E
66.					
67.					
68.					
69.					
70.					
71.					
72.					
73.					
74.					
75.					

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (4) The gap among letters increases by one.
2. (3) There is a gap of one letter in 3rd, 4th, 2nd and 1st letter.
3. (5) The last two letters have the same position in the alphabets from 'Z' as the 2nd and 1st have from A
4. (2) In all the others, the four letters are jumbled in the same way.
5. (5) Number the letters according to their position in the alphabetical order. Deduct the number of the second from the first.
6. (3) Add the numbers of the first two letters and deduct the number of the last one from the total.
7. (3) IN; GN and ON. 8. (1) 9. (2) 10. (2)
11. (5) All the others are expressions of anger.
12. (3) The others are signs of Zodiac.
13. (4) All the others are Greek letters used in Mathematics.
14. (1) It is the only weight measurement among linear measures.
15. (5) All the others are currencies of different nations.
16. (3) Allahabad is situated where Ganga and Yamuna meet.
17. (4) The Chambal has Rajasthan on one side and M.P. on the other.
18. (1) Both the cities are situated on the bank of the Yamuna.
19. (5) The Qutub Minar is in Delhi, the Taj at a different place.
20. (2) Mumbai is on the coast of the Arabian Sea and the Gateway of India is in Mumbai, facing the sea.

21. (5) Both join the two parts of the other object.
22. (2) One is an essential part of the other.
23. (2) Both the terms are related to differences among people that may have serious consequences.
24. (3) They are two items of the same category, one is birds and the other reptiles.
25. (4) One is an imaginary creature, the other is the country with which it is associated.

For answering the next type of question study each figure of the set very carefully, independently as well as in its relationship with other figures. Follow its movement in next step and then reach the conclusion and find out the right answer figure. The following guidelines might prove helpful in picking out the right figure.

- (i) The figures generally move right-left, up-down, corner to corner, clockwise, anti-clockwise or along certain points.

- (ii) All the figures in a question may not move in the same direction or at the same pace. The figures may move at a uniform pace, may increase or decrease a step with each movement and may change position. Examples: 26, 28, 29, 31, 43 etc.

- (iii) The figures may interchange places according to a certain pattern. *Examples:* 30, 36, 48, 49 etc.

- (iv) Something may be added or dropped during next steps. *Examples:* 27, 34, 35, 37, 39, 41, 42, 46, 54, 55 etc.

- (v) There might be sets of two or three steps where figures change according to a set pattern, for example question number 40, which has sets of two figures each.

- (vi) Only one figure from a set or two figures may change direction following a particular pattern, e.g. question no. 38.

- (vii) Some questions may have a combination of characteristics mentioned above.

- | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 26. (B) | 27. (E) | 28. (A) | 29. (C) | 30. (C) |
| 31. (A) | 32. (C) | 33. (D) | 34. (B) | 35. (A) |
| 36. (E) | 37. (D) | 38. (A) | 39. (C) | 40. (B) |
| 41. (D) | 42. (A) | 43. (C) | 44. (C) | 45. (A) |
| 46. (A) | 47. (D) | 48. (E) | 49. (A) | 50. (E) |
| 51. (E) | 52. (B) | 53. (C) | 54. (D) | 55. (C) |
| 56. (D) | 57. (B) | 58. (E) | 59. (C) | 60. (C) |
| 61. (B) | 62. (A) | 63. (A) | 64. (E) | 65. (C) |
66. (D) The proportion among figures ought to be 2 : 3 : 4, here it is 2 : 2 : 5.
67. (D) All the other figures have three semi-circles and two straight lines; here it is the other way round.
68. (B) The inner figure should have one side more and the figure below one side less than the main figure.
69. (E) The pattern is wrong.
70. (B) The pattern of the figures changes from right to left, in this one it is upside down.
71. (A) The pattern is wrong.
72. (E) The arrangement in others is that the figure with maximum number of sides is one, the figures with one side less are two and with two sides less are three.
73. (B) In all the others the inner figure is just like the outer one, in this case, one side is missing.
74. (C) All the other figures are formed with five straight lines.
75. (C) The pattern is wrong.

Test of Reasoning - 2

Qs. 1-6. In each of the following questions, a number series is given. Below this series a number is given followed by (A), (B), (C), (D) and (E). After understanding the pattern in the given number series, you have to form another number series in the same order, starting from the given number:

1. 5 4 6 15 56
7 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (D)?

(1) 84 (2) 94 (3) 104 (4) 107 (5) None of these
2 71 73 79 81 87
95 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (E)?

(1) 113 (2) 109 (3) 117 (4) 108 (5) None of these
3 1 2 4 8 16
3 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (B)?

(1) 15 (2) 12 (3) 18 (4) 24 (5) None of these
4 7 11 23 59 167
6 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (C)?

(1) 54 (2) 47 (3) 42 (4) 32 (5) None of these
5. 100 121 144 169 196
4 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (D)?

(1) 42 (2) 49 (3) 36 (4) 25 (5) None of these
6 6 9 8 16 10
12 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (A)?

(1) 18 (2) 24 (3) 32 (4) 36 (5) None of these

Questions 7 to 12. Some letters, numbers and symbols are arranged linewise and columnwise. Study the chart carefully and answer the questions that follow.

✓	5	R	□	N
T	V	6	△	✓
3	G	□	7	Q
P	R	C	8	△
2	≠	8	Q	5

7. Which of the columns has the maximum number of letters?

(1) 1 (2) 2 (3) 3 (4) 4 (5) 5

8. If all the numbers occurring in the arrangement were

added up, the total would be

(1) 38 (2) 42 (3) 41 (4) 44 (5) None of these

9. What is the ratio between the number of letters and numbers used in the table? If any of these has been used more than once, count it as one only

(1) 4 : 3 (2) 8 : 7 (3) 5 : 3
(4) 5 : 4 (5) None of these

10. If you start from left top and go right reaching N and then go zig-zagging, i.e. next line right to left and the next one left to right, how many symbols would be there between N and P?

(1) 4 (2) 3 (3) 2 (4) 5 (5) None of these

11. Find out the missing set in the following series

✓ RN V △ 3 □ QR --- 55 □
(1) △ ≠ Q (2) C △ ≠ (3) 828
(4) 82Q (5) None of these

12. Which set would be the next one in the following series?

TR ✓ ✓ 6N 36Q T □ ✓ ---
(1) 3CQ (2) 2C5 (3) P □ △
(4) P8 △ (5) None of these

Qs. 13-17. In the following questions each capital letter used in the word is coded by a small letter. The same code is used for all the letters. Each of the following questions has a word written in capital letters with one of the letters enclosed in a box. Your task is to find out the right code for this letter from (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6).

13. S T R I K E
(1) w (2) b (3) q (4) v (5) p (6) d
14. C H O R U S
(1) m (2) x (3) v (4) z (5) d (6) j
15. T H R E A D
(1) b (2) d (3) l (4) m (5) k (6) w
16. C H A N G E
(1) y (2) m (3) f (4) b (5) l (6) x
17. S H R U N K
(1) d (2) z (3) v (4) q (5) y (6) m

Qs. 18-20. Find out codes for each word of the message and answer the questions that follow:

'dom rom com nom' means, 'All soldiers are smart.'
'com pom kom lom' means, 'Some soldiers can swim.'
'gom nom som pom' means, 'Some students are intelligent.'
'kom tom rom gom' means, 'All students can drive.'

18. What is the code for 'soldier'?

(1) dom (2) rom (3) com
(4) nom (5) None of these

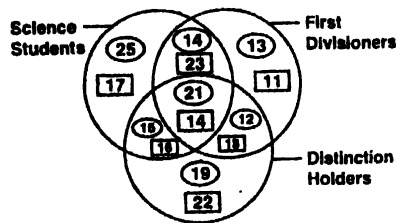
19. What does the code 'kom' stand for?

- (1) all (2) can (3) some
(4) drive (5) None of these

20. What does the code 'dom gom lom' mean?

- (1) smart intelligent student (2) intelligent soldiers swim
(3) intelligent soldiers drive (4) smart students swim
(5) None of these

Qs. 21-25. In the chart given below the number in rectangle means the number of boys and the number in ellipse means the number of girls. Study the diagram and answer the questions that follow.



21. How many girls, who were not science students got either distinction or first division or both?

- (1) 44 (2) 32 (3) 40 (4) 31 (5) None of these

22. How many boys, who had opted science, got I division?

- (1) 14 (2) 39 (3) 37 (4) 55 (5) None of these

23. What is the total number of first divisioners who are not distinction holders?

- (1) 83 (2) 61 (3) 44 (4) 74 (5) None of these

24. What is the ratio between girls and boys who got I division?

- (1) 10 : 11 (2) 9 : 10 (3) 7 : 9
(4) 6 : 7 (5) None of these

25. Among non-science students, how many more boys got distinction as compared to the number of girls who got distinction?

- (1) 8 (2) 11 (3) 9 (4) 13 (5) None of these

Qs. 26 and 27 are based on the information given below:

A train-track and road run parallel and quite close to each other. A train started from station X at a speed of 70 kilometres per hour. After every 14 km there is a station where the train stops for 2 minutes. For convenience we'll call them stations A, B, C, D, E ... etc. The train started at 9 A.M. A passenger, arrived at the station 'X' at 9.12 A.M., but since the train had left he took a taxi and followed the train at a speed of 80 km per hour.

26. At which station did he catch the train and boarded it?

- (1) B (2) C (3) D (4) E (5) None of these

27. At what time did he reach that station?

- (1) 9.54 A.M. (2) 9.46 A.M. (3) 9.42 A.M.
(4) 9.36 A.M. (5) None of these

Qs. 28-30. Six schools in a city are situated as follows:

E is 2 km to the east of A which is 5 km to the north of F. C is 4 km to the west of D.

F is 1 km to the west of B and 2 km to the south of D.

28. Which three schools lie in a straight line?

- (1) AEF (2) CDF (3) ADE
(4) ADF (5) None of these

29. Which two are the farthest from each other as the crow flies?

- (1) B and A (2) C and E (3) C and F
(4) F and E (5) None of these

30. In which direction from B is C?

- (1) north-east (2) south-east (3) east
(4) north-west (5) south-west

Qs. 31 to 35 are based on the following information.

Four groups, A, B, C and D gave training to 100 men and 100 women each in some or the other vocational crafts for three consecutive years. Each year they took a different group of men and women. The following chart gives the data of the persons who benefitted by these vocational trainings and started some cottage industry on their own.

Year →	1996		1997		1998	
Trainees →	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Groups ↓	100	100	100	100	100	100
A	75	66	81	76	49	62
B	69	84	48	52	71	73
C	72	70	74	68	69	72
D	58	59	64	67	68	74

31. Which group got maximum success in making the trainees start their own business?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C (4) D (5) Can't say

32. How many women, in spite of availing the vocational training, did not start business of their own?

- (1) 377 (2) 298 (3) 308 (4) 336 (5) None of these

33. In 1998 what was the percentage of trainees (approximately) who started business of their own?

- (1) 69.23% (2) 59.79% (3) 73.2%
(4) 67.25% (5) None of these

34. What approximately is the percentage of women trainees in 1997 who started earning on their own?

- (1) 65.75% (2) 72.69% (3) 65.5%
(4) 62.98% (5) None of these

35. In group D, it is obvious that during the three years, women outnumbered men in starting a business of their own. You have to find out, by what per cent?

- (1) 1.9% (2) 3.3% (3) 2.7% (4) 4.3%
(5) None of these

36. Given below are five words. Four out of these have the same relationship with the word CONTROVERSY while one is different. Find this odd-man out:

- (1) COVER (2) SOONER (3) VOTERS
(4) EVERY (5) STOVE

37. Mohan's birthday is in the second week of August on Friday and his sister's birthday is on the first Sunday of November. The last day of November is Tuesday. How many days are there between the two birthdays excluding the dates of birthdays?

- (1) 84 (2) 85 (3) 86 (4) 87 (5) None of these

38. What is Mohan's birthday according to the facts stated

above?

- (1) 10th Aug (2) 11th Aug (3) 12th Aug
(4) 13th Aug (5) None of these

Qs. 39-40. These questions are based on statements given below:

In a 'Ramleela', Arun, Bhanu, Chandra, Dhruv and Govind are playing the roles of Dashrath, Ram, Laxman, Bharat and Shatrughna, but not in the same order

Govind and Bhanu are not playing Ram or Laxman's roles.

Arun is Shatrughna

Dhruv and Chandra are not Dashrath or Bharat.

Chandra is not Ram and Govind is not Bharat

39. Which role is Dhruv playing?

- (1) Dashrath (2) Ram (3) Laxman
(4) Bharat (5) Shatrughna

40. Which of the following statements is wrong?

- (1) Arun is not playing Ram's role
(2) Bhanu is playing Bharat's role
(3) Chandra is playing Dashrath's role
(4) Govind is not playing Laxman's role
(5) All the above are correct.

SYLLOGISMS

In each question below are given two statements followed by four conclusions numbered I, II, III and IV. You have to take the two given statements to be true even if they appear at variance with commonly known facts. Read all the conclusions and then decide which of them logically follow from the statements, disregarding commonly known facts.

Statements

41. 1. All cities are villages
2. Some villages are districts

Conclusions

- I. All cities are districts
II. Some districts are cities.
III. Some districts are not villages.
IV. No city is a district.
(1) Either II or III follows (2) Only I and III follow.
(3) Only III follows (4) None follows.
(5) Only any one from I, II and IV follows.

Statements

42. 1. Green and blue makes red.
2. Red and pink makes yellow

Conclusions:

- I. Green, blue and pink makes yellow.
II. Blue, pink and red makes yellow.
III. Green and pink makes yellow
IV. For yellow, green, blue and red are needed.
(1) Only I follows. (2) Only II follows.
(3) Only III follows. (4) Only IV follows.
(5) None follows.

Statements

43. 1. Every ship is either a car or a train.
2. All trains are engines.

Conclusions

- I. No car is engine.
II. Some ships are not engines
III. Some ships are engines.
IV. Some engines are trains.
(1) Only I, II and III follow.
(2) Either I and II or III and IV follow.
(3) Only II, III and IV follow.
(4) All the four follow. (5) None follows.

Statements

44. 1. Some poisons are medicines
2. Some liquids are medicines.

Conclusions

- I. All medicines are either poisons or liquids.
II. Some poisons are liquids
III. No liquid is a poison
IV. Poison kills people
(1) Only IV follows (2) Either II or III follows
(3) Either III or IV follows (4) Either I or III follows
(5) None follows

Statements

45. 1. All reptiles are birds.
2. All birds are dogs.

Conclusions

- I. All dogs are birds
II. All birds are reptiles.
III. All reptiles are dogs
IV. Some reptiles are neither birds nor dogs
(1) Only I follows (2) Only II follows
(3) Only III follows (4) Only IV follows.
(5) Either III or IV follows.

Statements

46. 1. Some computers are radios.
2. Some radios are televisions

Conclusions

- I. Some computers are televisions.
II. Some televisions are not radios.
III. No television is a computer.
IV. The televisions that are radios are not computers.
(1) Either II or IV follows. (2) Either I or III follows.
(3) Only I and II follow. (4) Only III and IV follows.
(5) Any one from all the four follows.

Statements

47. 1. Some cups are spoons.
2. All spoons are bottles.

Conclusions.

- I. Some spoons are not cups.
II. All bottles are cups.
III. Some cups are bottles.
IV. All bottles are spoons.
(1) Only I and II follow. (2) Either III or IV follows.
(3) Only IV follows. (4) Only I follows.
(5) Only III follows.

Statements:

48. 1. All caps are helmets.

2. All turbans are helmets.

Conclusions:

- I. Every helmet is either a cap or a turban.
- II. Some helmets are caps as well as turbans.
- III. The helmets that are turbans are not caps.
- IV. All caps are turbans.
- (1) Only I and II follow. (2) Either II or III follows.
- (3) None follows. (4) Only IV follows.
- (5) Only I follows.

In each question given below, a statement is followed by three assumptions numbered I, II and III. An assumption is something supposed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the assumptions and then decide which of the assumptions is/are implicit in the statement. Then decide which of the answers is correct.

Statement:

49. Some banks have revised interest rates on deposits that have been declining during the previous years.

Assumptions:

- I. The profitability of banks was going down due to lower rates of interest.
- II. The depositors are not interested in putting their money at places where rates of interest are not attractive.
- III. The banks have constantly been running in loss.
- (1) Only I is implicit. (2) Only II is implicit.
- (3) Only I and II are implicit. (4) Only III is implicit.
- (5) Only anyone of the three is implicit.

Statement:

50. Mumbai has special telephone lines exclusively to lodge complaints directly to the Home Ministry if the local police does not register them.

Assumptions:

- I. The Home Ministry takes immediate action.
- II. The Home Ministers of other cities and States are not so alert as those of Maharashtra.
- III. The police often tries to waive aside complaints brought by poor people or complaints against influential people, but the Home Ministry does not like it.
- (1) Only I is implicit. (2) Only II is implicit.
- (3) Only III is implicit. (4) Only I and II are implicit.
- (5) None is implicit.

Statement:

51. Although plastic was banned in a certain zoo two years back, the postmortem of dead creatures revealed polythene consumption in their stomach and intestines.

Assumptions:

- I. In spite of the ban, people continue to bring food-stuff in polythene bags and throw the bags around.
- II. Polythene does not get digested and often results in the death of the animals who consume it.
- III. Animals do not get sufficient to eat in the zoo so they eat polythene bags.
- (1) Only I and II are implicit.
- (2) Only II and III are implicit.

(3) Only I and III are implicit.

(4) Only III is implicit. (5) All are implicit.

Statement:

52. Since the exposure of a racket in university 'X' held responsible for fake degrees and mark-sheets, no results have been announced.

Assumptions:

- I. The persons who prepared results are behind bars.
- II. No one is willing to take the responsibility of running the university.
- III. If the present state of affairs continues, very soon the university would be closed for ever.
- (1) Only I is implicit. (2) Only II is implicit.
- (3) Only III is implicit. (4) Either II or III is implicit.
- (5) None is implicit.

Statement:

53. Many children made cards and other small gift items, sold them, and sent the money to Kargil victims and their families.

Assumptions:

- I. Children have patriotic feelings and do whatever they can to help the war heroes.
- II. The money sanctioned by the government is not enough so the citizens are coming forward too.
- III. Helping the Kargil victims is a token of showing gratitude to those who laid their lives for us.
- (1) Only I and II are implicit.
- (2) Only II and III are implicit.
- (3) Only I and III are implicit. (4) All are implicit.
- (5) Any one of the three is implicit.

In each of the following questions, a problem is stated through a statement followed by two proposed courses of action. You have to analyse and grasp the problem and then decide which of the courses of action should be followed for improvement, follow-up or further action in regard to the given statement. Tick mark (✓) your answers as under:

- (1) Only I and not II follows for pursuing.
- (2) Only II and not I follows for pursuing.
- (3) Both I and II together follow.
- (4) Either I or II follows.
- (5) Neither I nor II follows.

Statement:

54. There are reports that some young persons are moving around the town on false identity cards of cops.

Courses of action:

- I. The police department should spread a network to catch the fakers.
- II. A public notice should be issued warning people that every one who says he is a policeman, ought not to be believed.

- (1) ☐ (2) ☐ (3) ☐ (4) ☐ (5) ☐

Statement:

55. In most of the industries, the prices of products are constantly falling due to tough competition while workers and trade unions are persisting on pay-hike.

Courses of action:

- I. Owners, managers and workers should get together

to plan out a strategy so as to compensate for low inflation

II. The number of workers should be minimized.

- (1) ☐ (2) ☐ (3) ☐ (4) ☐ (5) ☐

Statement

56 City roads seldom remain in good shape as some department or the other arrives with spades and pick-axes as soon as a road is made

Courses of action

I. There should be co-ordination committee among the departments concerned

II The department or anyone else, who digs the road should be made to repair it as well

- (1) ☐ (2) ☐ (3) ☐ (4) ☐ (5) ☐

Statement

57 The results of a public school are constantly going down for the last three years

Courses of action

I Only the brilliant students should be allowed to take the public examinations

II The whole staff should be shuffled

- (1) ☐ (2) ☐ (3) ☐ (4) ☐ (5) ☐

Statement

58 In spite of all the acts and laws, child marriages take place in great number, specially in rural areas

Courses of action

I An awareness programme should be launched through media to make people realize the hazards of child marriage and its impact on society

II Social workers and gram-sevaks and sevikas should be extra alert and report such cases to the police beforehand

- (1) ☐ (2) ☐ (3) ☐ (4) ☐ (5) ☐

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1 (3) The arrangement would be $(7 \times 1) - 1 = 6$, $(6 \times 2) - 2 = 10$, $(10 \times 3) - 3 = 27$, $(27 \times 4) - 4 = 104$

2 (1) Go on adding 2 and 6 by turns to numbers respectively

3 (2) The numbers are doubled

4 (4) Multiply by 3 and deduct 10 to get the next number

5 (3) All numbers are squares of consecutive numbers

6 (1) The arrangement would be $6 \times 2 = 12$, $6 \times 3 = 18$, $7 \times 2 = 14$, $7 \times 3 = 21$ and so on

7 (2) 8 (4) 9 (4) 10 (1)

11 (3) Go from left to right dropping one element

12 (3)

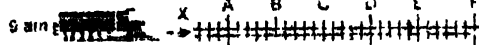
13-17 Match the common capital letters with common codes

13 (3) 14 (5) 15 (1) 16 (1) 17 (2)

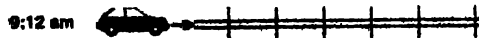
18 (3) 19 (2) 20 (4) 21 (1) 22 (3)

23 (2) 24 (1) 25 (3)

26 (3)

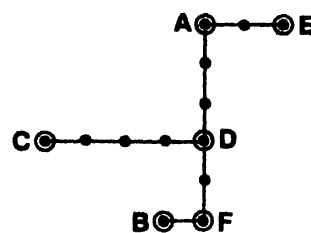


27 (1)



28 (4)

29 (2)



30 (4)

31 (3)

33 (4)

35 (2)

36 (4) In others all the letters are from the key word, this one has an extra 'E'

37 (2)

39 (2)

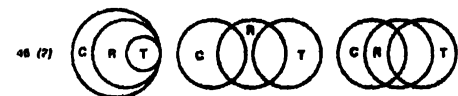
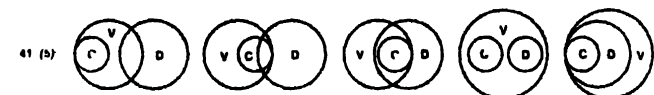
32 (1)

34 (1)

38 (4)

40 (3)

The next type of questions are best solved by drawing diagrams of all the probabilities and then reaching the fool-proof conclusion. Let each item be represented by a circle irrespective of its size. Then according to the relationship among the items draw the diagrams. Here are a few examples to provide you with a guideline



41 (3)

54 (3)

50 (3)

55 (1)

51 (1)

56 (3)

52 (5)

57 (5)

53 (4)

58 (3)

Short Notes on National News

ELECTIONS

Vote '99

THE longest election in Indian poll history got over on October 3, 1999. The elections were marked by contrasting trends, a hi-tech and low-level smear campaign, violence in some parts, especially in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, and floods in Bihar, West Bengal and parts of Madhya Pradesh.

Due to floods, polling in four constituencies in Bihar was postponed to October 28, 1999. In Dhubri constituency of Assam polling was postponed because of the killing of BJP candidate by suspected ULFA militants.

Assembly elections in five States—Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim—were also held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls.

The total percentage of voting in 1999 elections was about 60 per cent, marginally less than the 61.97 per cent in 1998. The total number of voters was 620 million.

As many as 4,647 candidates were in the fray, but the main contenders were the 24-party National Democratic Alliance (NDA), led by the BJP, and the Congress, which had seat adjustments with some anti-BJP parties.

A peculiar feature of the 13th Lok Sabha elections was that they were more personality-specific than policy-oriented and seemed to assume the characteristics of a Presidential election.

NDA emerged a clear winner with more than 290 seats. Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee took charge as the Prime Minister for the third time in three years.

Conceding defeat, Congress President Sonia Gandhi said that the results had not "come up to our

Do You Know...

International Literacy Day was observed on September 8, 1999.

Delhi Pollution at par with 1952 London fog

The Washington-based Worldwatch Institute has said in a report that pollution levels in Delhi are comparable to the infamous 1952 London smog that claimed 4,000 lives. Similar levels also exist in Beijing and many other cities.

It has stressed on the need to globally phase out coal as a fuel source due to its high polluting potential, and pointed out that acid haze over the Indian Ocean is reducing wheat yield in India.

Coal, being the most carbon-intensive fossil fuel, accounts for 43 per cent of annual global carbon emissions and burning the entire coal reserve would release three trillion tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere—five times more than the safe limit for averting serious climatic disruptions.

The London smog resulted from coal-burnt smoke with high sulphur content which lead to the production of high concentration of sulphuric acid in fog droplets.

The acidic droplets along with high-density smoke inhibit normal functioning of lungs, resulting in symptoms including chest constriction, difficulty in breathing, headache, nausea, vomiting and irritation in eyes, ears, nose and throat.

It has suggested reduction of huge subsidies on coal in many countries that encourage its use. India and China jointly account for about 10 per cent of the total annual global coal subsidies.

Thirteen countries continue to depend on coal for at least one quarter of their total energy. These include the US and the Denmark in the industrialised world which depend on coal for 53 and 74 per cent of their electricity respectively.

China, where acid hazes cause annual damage worth \$ 14 billion, has more than halved its coal subsidy rates—a move which led to a 5.2 per cent drop in its coal consumption in 1998. Belgium, France, Japan, Spain and the United Kingdom have also halved their coal use.

Use of coal, which was earlier dubbed as "the bridge to the future", experienced a 2.1 per cent global drop in 1998.

expectations and the party has suffered reverses". Infact, this was the worst-ever debacle for the Congress in last 50 years.

The BJP maintained that the clear mandate for the NDA this time was for "continuance of good governance against destabilisation politics" of the Congress, the RJD and the AIADMK and "low level of campaign" indulged in by their main opponents.

However, BJP had its own share of reverses too. It was badly beaten in Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka while its ally, the Akali Dal, was almost wiped out of Punjab.

State Elections: In Maharashtra assembly elections no party could manage clear-cut majority. In Karnataka Congress virtually swept the polls and the ruling Janata Dal (U) was routed. In Andhra Pradesh, riding on a pro-incumbency wave, the TDP-BJP combine dealt a stunning blow to the Congress, while the Left Parties faced a near rout.

The Congress romped home in Arunachal Pradesh and secured a two-

third majority in the 60-member House. In Sikkim, the Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) led by Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling retained power by bagging two-third majority.

Tasks ahead: Opening up of the insurance sector, reduction of fiscal deficit, mobilisation of funds for infrastructure development, bringing down interest rates and speeding up the public sector disinvestment are some urgent tasks to be taken-up by the new government.

Reform of bankruptcy laws and procedures, labour laws, financial sector reforms and privatisation of public sector units are the key steps for launching second generation economic reforms.

Worry about court cases: Chief Election Commissioner M.S. Gill has described the trend of several cases relating to elections being filed in various courts as worrisome. However, Article 329(B) of the Constitution, wisely introduced by Jawaharlal Nehru and B.R. Ambedkar, to prevent disruption of poll process by Court cases, was a help as

otherwise elections to a large number of seats would have been stalled

Opinion and exit polls: While the Election Commission banned all opinion and exit polls during the elections, the Supreme Court ruled that the commission had no power to issue such an order. The ruling was passed following the petition by Editor of *Frontline* magazine in which it brought to the notice of the court that Article 324 gave no legislative power to the EC. If any law banning the publication of exit or opinion polls was to be passed, it had to be first debated in the Parliament.

When the commission's counsel contended that publication of exit or opinion polls would impinge upon free and fair elections, the court said that EC must perceive clearly that "you have far less powers than the public perception of it."

Referring to the commission's prayer for a direction to the Union government to enforce the guidelines, the court remarked, "It is absurd to say that EC will issue the guidelines but if somebody violates them, the Supreme Court will take action."

The court said that if EC had assumed that it "had powers to issue such guidelines", why is it "doubting the very same powers by coming to the court and seeking their enforcement?"

The court observed that what EC wants "is to make the Supreme Court act in aid of the commission and declare the guidelines as law. This is a presumption on the part of the commission."

Next elections to be fully EVM-conducted: The Election Commission has announced its plans to hold the next Parliamentary polls entirely on Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Electronics Corporation of India Ltd (ECIL)—which conceived and designed the machines—will gain tremendously from this decision.

With the country's requirement for a Parliamentary election totalling nearly 12

lakh machines, the Commission will have to procure a fresh lot of 10-11 lakh machines over the next five years.

More than 17 years ago, the EC had procured 1.5 lakh FVMs at a cost of Rs 75 crore. The estimated expenditure on procurement of additional EVMs to hold a Parliamentary election promises to go much beyond a thousand crore.

At least 12 lakh machines would be needed to hold a fully push-button parliamentary poll.

The FVMs were used for the first time in 1982 in the Kerala assembly elections and subsequently tried out in 10 other constituencies all over the country. Though found easier and faster to use, legal hurdles pushed the machines into cold storage after 1983. That was the year the Supreme Court ruled that a legal provision must be made in the Representation of Peoples' Act, 1951, before EVMs can be used. The same was later incorporated in the Act in 1988 and came into force in 1990.

In fact, a recent survey on the use of EVMs conducted by the Centre for Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) found that an average 97.2% voter preferred the machines to ballot papers in Delhi.

The CSDS survey also found that around 90.8 non-literate voters preferred voting on EVMs to stamping ballot papers.

Law panel suggestions for electoral reforms

THE Law Commission has recommended to the Union government that Independent candidates be barred from contesting elections to the Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies. It has also suggested that a legislature should have a full five-year term.

In its 170th report, the Commission, headed by former Supreme Court judge



German Speed skater Franziska Schenk, (L) and Opel-chief Robert W. Hendry (R) pose with the Opel study G 90 at the International Automobile Fair IAA in Frankfurt on Tuesday 14 September 1999. The requirements for the car had been to produce a vehicle producing a maximum of 90 grams of carbon-dioxide (EU regulations set for 2008 allow a maximum 140 grams). The Opel G 90 is not planned for commercial production as it (so far) is just a study by the company's development engineers.

B. P. Jeevan Reddy, said that in order to contain defections, a "pre-poll coalition" or "front of political parties" should be treated as a "political party".

It also suggested inclusion of a chapter in the Representation of the People Act to regulate the formation and functioning of political parties to avoid their splintering and to ensure internal democracy and maintenance of funds.

The Commission has favoured scrapping of explanation-1 to Section 77 (1) of the Representation of the People Act to make the electoral system more representative, fair and transparent. Section 77 exempts a candidate from declaring poll expenses incurred by him beyond the fixed limit.

The Commission also suggested provisions to make it obligatory for every candidate to declare his/her assets and of his/her spouse and dependent relations as well as provides particulars regarding criminal cases pending against them.

On State funding of political parties, the Commission has reiterated the recommendations of the Indrajit Gupta Committee subject to certain changes.

The panel also recommended that in

Do You Know...

The tallest building in the world is the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur.

case of electoral offences and certain other serious offences, framing of a charge by the court should itself be a ground for disqualification, in addition to conviction. The Commission has proposed amendments to the relevant provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code to check false complaints.

It emphasised the desirability of adopting a rule that only a candidate obtaining 50 per cent or more votes be declared elected, and holding of "run off" elections wherever necessary.

Any party, which receives less than five per cent of the total vote in elections to the Lok Sabha and assemblies "shall not be entitled to any seat". It suggested a new rule in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business for Lok Sabha to ensure stability of government.

Other salient features of the recommendations included use of electronic voting machines and restrictions on "no-confidence motion".

The Commission has also recommended a "list system" on the German model and delved into the concept of "negative vote".

RESERVATIONS

SC ruling on seniority of quota candidates

THE Supreme Court has ruled that candidates, who got jobs through reservation quota, could not be entitled to seniority over general category employees as a matter of right.

The court said that "both Articles 16(4) and 16(4A) do not confer any fundamental rights nor do they impose any constitutional duties but are only in the nature of enabling provisions vesting a discretion in the State to consider providing reservation if the circumstances

Do You Know...

Ford Motor company plans to make India the global export hub for its car, Ikon, to markets in South Africa, Mexico and South America. The car was designed especially for India at Ford's global small car centre in Dunton near London and is being made at its Chennai plant.

India 4th in PPP terms

According to the World Bank's latest World Development Report India is the fourth largest economic power in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms, despite her unrealised potential and low per capita income.

India, though ranked fifth by the World Bank on the basis of a population of 988 million, would stand at the fourth position (equal to that of Germany) if its current population, which is over one billion, is taken into account.

The country is ahead of as many as five (or six if Germany is included) out of the group of eight industrial countries (US, Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada plus Russia).

The Gross National Product (GNP) of India in 1998 stood at \$ 1,660.9 billion. While the per capita income based on PPP was \$ 1700, in conventional terms it was \$ 430.

mentioned in these articles so warranted".

The court also held that "in the matter of due representation in service for backward classes and SC/STs, maintenance of efficiency of administration is of paramount importance."

SCANDALS

Harshad held guilty of Maruti funds misuse

HARSHAD Mehta and three others have been sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment for siphoning off Maruti Udyog funds.

The sentence followed the earlier conviction of the four accused for misappropriating Rs 38.97 crore of Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL) funds. They had been convicted for being party to criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust and dishonest appropriation.

The three other accused—Maruti official Pramod Manocha, UCO Bank assistant manager Vinayak Deosthali and ANZ Grindlays official Ram Narayan Popli—have also been sentenced to serve five years' rigorous imprisonment (RI), along with a fine of Rs 25,000 each. The four accused would have to undergo an additional year of RI if they failed to pay the fine.

The sentence, however, stood suspended until November 2 to allow the convicts to appeal before the Supreme Court.

JUDICIARY

SC fixes time limit for criminal trials

IN a major judgement aimed at speedy disposal of criminal cases, the Supreme

Court has made it mandatory for trial courts to close prosecution evidence within three years of framing charges against the accused.

The court observed that the idea of the time frame was to speed up the trial of criminal cases to prevent "the prosecution from becoming persecution of the persons arrayed in a criminal trial". No trial can be allowed to prolong indefinitely due to the lethargy of the prosecuting agency or the State machinery.

However, the court noted that these time frames were not absolute and two exceptions had been enumerated. First, the trial courts were not obliged to close the prosecution evidence if the inability for completion of such evidence was attributable to the conduct of the accused.

The court had also said the period of stay on trials granted by higher courts were to be discounted from the time limit as well as the absence of the presiding officers and the consequent delays in trial.

ECONOMY AND PLANNING

Diesel prices up 40 pc

ON October 5, 1999, the government effected a whopping 40 per cent hike in prices of diesel, to curb the runaway oil pool deficit. This would have crossed Rs 10,000 crore for the year if no decision had been taken to hike the prices. The latest hike will bring an additional Rs 6,600 crore, but will still leave the oil pool deficit to around Rs 3,400 crore for the full year.

As per a Cabinet decision in November 1997, diesel prices were to be raised every month to keep them at par

with global prices. This, however, never took place over the last six months, with the government keen to avoid any move which might alienate voters. In the last six months, global diesel prices rose 80 per cent, from \$ 97.38 per tonne in March to \$ 174.52 (October 4).

Crude oil prices have also shot up dramatically, from \$ 12.40 per barrel in March to \$ 22.23 on October 4.

The recent hike is the ninth one since diesel prices were first linked to global ones—prices have been lowered six times, in line with the global prices.

BANKING

Plan for revival of three banks

THE M.S. Verma working group has tasked Indian Bank, UCO Bank and Bank of India to launch a voluntary retirement scheme aimed at cutting 25 per cent of their total workforce, and go in for a five-year wage freeze, in return for a Rs 5,500 crore restructuring package.

The panel has also warned that six more public banks—Allahabad Bank, Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Punjab and Sind Bank, Union Bank of India and Vijaya Bank—are under strong distress and could become weak anytime.

The panel has also called for attracting young, dynamic 'war-time' chairmen in the three banks, with attractive incentives and dramatic changes in the boards of these banks.

It has also called for the sale or closure of the subsidiaries and foreign operations of these three banks.

The core problem—that of non-performing assets—is sought to be tackled on a one-time basis by setting up of a government-sponsored Asset Reconstruction Fund (ARF), capitalised at Rs 1,000 crore. The ARF will buy out NPAs and turn them over to a

professional asset management company in the private sector.

An additional Rs 3,000 crore is sought to be pumped in by the government to improve capital adequacy and another Rs 300-400 crore toward technology upgradation.

The panel has said that operational restructuring encompassing tough measures is the only alternative to closure of these banks. It has warned the government against picking and choosing from its recommendations stating that there is no room for half way measures or gradualism. The committee has warned against a soft approach such as financial restructuring stating that "if operational aspects are not attended to, long term sustainability cannot be ensured.

Other changes that are sought to induce include operational restructuring, induction of information technology and each bank identifying a niche area for itself instead of trying to be an all-India bank. The committee has rejected mergers citing the failed example of New Bank of India with the Punjab National Bank. Closure has also been described as an extreme measure that would affect customers and employees. While privatisation is desirable, as it will increase accountability, it has been ruled out, as no private group can be expected to bring in the resources these banks require.

Bank allowed to set interest rates for gold deposits

THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has finally come out with model guidelines for the Gold Deposit Scheme. All banks that are allowed to trade in gold by the RBI have been given permission to launch their respective deposit schemes. The main highlights of the scheme are:

- Individuals, HUFs, trusts and companies can invest in the scheme.
- Joint tender to be accepted; split certificates issued.
- Banks allowed to fix interest rates on scheme. But maturity range fixed at 3-7 years.

- Initial lock-in period to be decided by banks.
- Pre-mature payment/encashment to be allowed after initial lock-in.
- Rupee loans can be taken against collateral of gold deposit certificates.
- Banks have to maintain 25% SLR on liabilities under the gold scheme, and a minimum CRR of 3%.

INDIA-NEPAL

Agree to review existing extradition treaty

THE four-day visit of India's Minister for External Affairs Jaswant Singh to the kingdom of Nepal was a very productive and cordial.

Both India and Nepal agreed to review the existing extradition treaty between the two countries and to take appropriate steps to combat the menace of terrorism more effectively. Neither India nor Nepal would allow their respective territories to be used for "activities directed against or prejudicial to the security of the other nor would we permit our open border to be misused by criminals and undesirable elements".

A major highlight of the visit was the inauguration of the B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences at Dharan, a flagship project of India-Nepal co-operation and the Neo-Natal and Maternal Intensive Care Units at the Maternity Hospital in Kathmandu.

The talks also led to agreements like formation of the Mahakali River Commission, expediting field studies for the DPR on the Sapti Koshi High Dam project, upgradation and streamlining of co-operation in flood control and forecasting, including formation of a task force to study the problem of floods in Nepal and in the adjoining regions of India and facilitation of trans-border motor vehicle movement.

It was also recommended that an India-Nepal Parliamentary Forum be set up to facilitate closer interaction between the parliamentarians of the two countries and to demarcate the boundaries in a more effective manner.

Do You Know...

Investors from the USA are investing less in India. According to the data of the Industry Ministry, the top investors in the country during 1999 are Japan, UK, Mauritius and South Korea. The fifth place is held by USA.

Short Notes on International News

INDONESIA

East Timor under UN forces

INDONESIAN armed forces handed over military control of East Timor to UN troops on September 27, 1999. This formally marked Indonesia's first big step out of the territory it has ruled for almost 24 years.

The control was officially handed over to Major General Peter Cosgrove, chief of the UN forces in East Timor.

Called the International force for peacekeeping in East Timor (Interfet), the force was authorised under Chapter 7 of the UN charter, which permits the use of military force in carrying out a mandate UN asked Australia to lead the force.

Although the Australia-led peacekeeping forces arrived quickly, it is not certain whether the tragedy will end any time soon.

On their arrival they were confronted with the burnt-out ruins of Dili city. At least 70 per cent of the capital was burnt to the ground, while most East Timorese towns have been wrecked. Between 150,000 and 200,000 East Timorese have become refugees within East Timor, fleeing to the hills or the harbour, without any food. Thousands have been killed.

(Also see Special Feature on page 298)

RUSSIA

Air raids against Chechnya

TO destroy the Islamic militants who are waging a war against the Russian republic of Dagestan, Russia started a series of air raids against the breakaway republic of Chechnya.

These attacks appear to be Moscow's

Do You Know...

International Day for older persons was observed on October 1, 1999.

Earthquakes Galore!



People ride their motor-scooters past a collapsed building in Taiwan on September 21, 1999, following the biggest earthquake to hit Taiwan in a century. Most of the casualties were inflicted around the central Taiwan counties of Taichung and Nantou, where the epicentre was located.

At 7.5 on the Richter scale, Mexico's earthquake on September 16, 1999, did August's 7.4 tremor in Turkey, which killed 15,000, and was in the same league as a 7.6 quake which killed more than 2,000 in Taiwan on September 21. Earlier, on September 4 in north Athens in Greece, was struck by an earthquake measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale. More than 50 people were reported dead.

Mexico, however, got off lightly, with no deaths and damage not concerned, because no two quakes are the same. Geophysicists said. Magnitude is one thing. But death and destruction depend on other factors, such as the quake's depth, its proximity to large cities, and the type of movement that triggers it in the soil.

In Turkey and Taiwan, the earthquakes were far shallower—several kilometres below the surface—increasing the intensity of the shaking.

The string of strong earthquakes around the world this year has triggered speculation about whether they are related. Over the past 15 years, there have been on average one or two major quakes each year, more than 6.0 on the Richter scale per year, and 15 "major" quakes of magnitude 6.0 and 7.0. So far in 1999 there have been 10 major and 10 quakes.

The 1990s have witnessed a number of devastating quakes worldwide, including those in 1995.

Location	Date	Fatalities	Magnitude
Nation, Colombia	Sept 14, 1999	1,000	7.5
Erzurum, Turkey	Aug 17, 1999	15,000	7.4
Bagueta, Colombia	Nov 25, 1999	1,200	6.3
Tashkent, Afghanistan	May 26, 1999	5,000	6.9
Tashkent, Afghanistan	Sept 1, 1999	4,500	6.3
Northridge, California	Jan 17, 1994	23,000	7.5
Kobe, Japan	Jan 17, 1995	5,500	6.9
Landers, California	July 31, 1992	22,000	6.4
Great Hanshin, Japan	Jan 17, 1995	2,000	6.9
Northridge, California	Jan 17, 1994	2,000	6.7
Northridge, California	Jan 17, 1994	2,000	6.7

response to a wave of apartment bombings by terrorists, that killed almost 300 Russians. The Islamic insurgents in the southern republics of Dagestan and Chechnya were believed to be behind the bombings.

Russia fought a 1994-96 war to crush Chechnya's independence drive, but was forced to withdraw after its military forces were repeatedly humiliated.

After the militants launched their offensive into Dagestan in August 1999, Russia renounced the Khasayurt Accords which ended the Chechen war in 1996. The agreement established a ceasefire and gave Chechnya *de facto*—but unrecognized—*de jure* independence.

Dagestan, unlike Chechnya, had signed the Federal treaty that made it a part of Russian Federation in 1992.

The Chechen President, Aslan Mashkadov, is considered a moderate in politics of the region and called for an urgent talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, but the call was rejected by Russia.

Mashkadov's rival is Shamil Basavey, leader of the rebels and a Chechen warlord, who wants to create an Islamic superstate stretching from Black Sea, including the Chechen capital of Grozny, to the Caspian Sea.

Meanwhile, a top Russian general accused the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and US of stoking the conflict in north caucasus because of their strategic interest in the region.

Russian authorities also claim that insurrection is spearheaded by Wahhabi school of Islam, and is backed by many Islamic States.

Do You Know...

The Daily Thanthi in Tamil heads the list of the top Indian newspapers of the country, with a readership of 94.54 lakhs, according to National Readership Survey, 1999. It is followed by Dainik Jagran (Hindi) with a readership of 92.33 lakhs and Malayala Manorama (Malayalam) with a readership of 92.15 lakhs. There is no English newspaper among the the top 10 newspapers. Just 3 newspapers figure in the top 10.

Water supply only for 7 billion by 2025

The World Watch Institute has said that world's water supply can only sustain 7 billion people at a decent level in 2050 and in India aquifer depletion could reduce grain harvest by one-fourth.

The pumping of underground water in India is likely to double the rate of aquifer by rainfall, which could drastically cut grain harvest. In a country, which is adding 18 million people every year, that is not good news.

Hydrologists estimate that when the amount of fresh water per person in a country drops below 1,700 cubic metres per year, the country is facing water stress.

The number of people living in countries experiencing water stress is expected to grow from 487 million in 1995 to over 3 billion by 2025.

TERRORISM

India's diplomacy pays off

ACCORDING to analysts, Indian strategy on counter terrorism appears to be three fold. The first pole of the strategy is to project the danger of terrorism fostered by Pakistan and Afghanistan as the biggest danger to international peace. This is being done both at bilateral and multilateral forums.

Bilaterally, India's external affairs minister Jaswant Singh held a meeting with US Secretary of State Madeline Albright where they agreed to join hands against terrorism, especially emanating from Taliban-controlled area of Afghanistan.

Besides US, Singh had bilateral meetings with British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, where both sides expressed concern over narco-terrorism. In addition, Singh secured Russia's cooperation in mobilising global cooperative action to fight cross border terrorism, as evident in Kashmir.

These meetings were held at feings of 54th session of UN General Assembly session. India has also supported Russian action against Islamic terrorists in Dagestan. There is a new dynamism in place of the old reactive stance that India had towards Afghanistan. The key to this dynamism is that even Islamic countries of Central Asia are nervous about the Taliban brand of terrorism.

In the multilateral forum, India has equally pushed its aggressive counter terrorism strategy.

In the Conference for Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) held at Almaty, Kazakhstan, Jaswant Singh was blunt on the threat

posed in Asia by the unchecked flow of trained fanatics with sophisticated weapons.

In recent times, south, central and west Asia regions have been plagued by ethnic and territorial conflicts, drug trading and terrorism.

Kyrgystan is battling members of radical Islamist groups which are gaining popularity in Central Asia.

Afghanistan is torn by civil war, Tajikistan remains volatile after years of violence, and India and Pakistan recently clashed in Kashmir after testing nuclear weapons in 1998.

The CICA forum was first proposed by Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev in 1992. The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and United Nations were present as observers.

The second pole of India's strategy is to work towards an alliances of democracies that can pressure renegade states through tools such as economic sanctions and arms embargo.

The last pole of the strategy, which can come only after the first two phases are successful, is the Indian hope of entering into bilateral extradition treaties and intelligence exchange.

Meanwhile, India signed the International Convention on suppression of Terrorist bombings, 1997, which requires States to either prosecute or extradite those accused of terrorist bombings within their territory. The convention had been adopted by a General Resolution on December 15, 1997.

The Convention defines the offence of "terrorist bombing" as when a person unlawfully and intentionally delivers,

places, discharges or detonates a bomb explosive into or against a place of public use, a State or government facility, a public transportation system or an infrastructure facility with the intent to cause death or serious injury or destruction of such a place. India is the eighth country to ratify the convention which will come into force when 22 States have ratified it.

WORLD ECONOMY

IMF lending hits a record in '98-99

THE International Monetary Fund loaned its member States a record \$ 30.5 billion in the financial year that ended April 30, 1999, but now believes the worst of the world's economic problems are over.

The IMF's annual report said Brazil was the largest single borrower in 1998-99, taking up \$ 9.7 billion as its economy buckled under the strain of the world financial crisis.

Russia was also a big borrower, receiving \$ 5.6 billion from the IMF.

However, the crisis which led to the massive borrowing had passed its peak but there are still problems, especially in Ecuador and Indonesia. Russia, which reneged on the terms of a string of loan programmes with the IMF, was doing better than expected.

The IMF has played a key role in international efforts to resolve the financial crisis, which started in Thailand in July 1997 and spread relentlessly around the world. Its \$ 27.3 billion in lending for 1997-98 had also been a record.

At the peak of the crisis, toward the end of 1998, Central banks cut interest rates to restore confidence and keep liquidity from drying up, but the US Federal Reserve has since reversed two of last year's three interest rate hikes.

The report says that the lessons from the crisis included the need to strengthen a fragile world financial system and to provide more transparency at the IMF and in member countries.

Do You Know...

Teachers' Day was observed on September 5, 1999.



A digital clock starts the count-down to the 2000 millennium day at the Tokyo Disneyland in Urayasu, suburban Tokyo on the 100th day before the end of the year, 23 September 1999.

Moreover, overdue debts to the IMF have risen sharply since last year, raising questions about why the fund pushed ahead with loans to countries which cannot afford to pay.

World Bank admits to past errors; paints bleak picture for developing world

AFTER over 50 years of seeking to reduce poverty and disease and educate the poor, the World Bank

admitted that many of its past policies were misguided and it needed help to succeed in the future.

The bank's annual World Development Report painted a bleak picture of a developing world which has fallen even further behind rich nations despite the efforts by the World Bank and others to make the world a better place to live.

It also said that in many ways the bank had failed in its mission to improve

conditions of poverty, disease and poor education in the developing world and admitted that it can not carry the burden alone if its ideas are to work.

Simple solutions—investments in physical and human capital, for instance, and unfettered markets—will not work in isolation. Governments, the private sector, civil society, and donor organisations need to work together in support of broad-based development.

The bank attributed much of its past problems to seeking out a "magic bullet" which would solve the woes of the world's poor. It also said "trickle-down economics"—the practice of cutting taxes for the rich hoping it would benefit the poorer in society—does not work.

But, whatever policies were used over the past 50 years, one thing is certain: poverty continues to rise. Today 1.5 billion people live on an income of less than \$1 a day, up from 1.2 billion people in 1987. The report forecast the numbers living at that lowest of incomes would reach 1.9 billion by 2015.

The gap between rich and poor has also widened. Between 1970 and 1985 the average per capita income for the world's poorest countries dropped from 3.1 per cent of incomes in rich countries to just 1.9 per cent.

G-7 clears IMF gold sale plan

THE Group of Seven industrialised countries (G-7) has finalised a mechanism for the IMF to sell about one-tenth of its gold reserves to Central banks and not on the open market as part of a global initiative to finance debt relief to 36 of the poorest countries.

The gold sale plan envisaged the sale of 14 million ounces of yellow metal from the IMF reserves only to Central banks and not in the open market to avoid crash

in gold prices. The IMF gold sale is expected to be worth \$3 billion to meet its share in the estimated \$20 billion debt relief to the world's poorest countries in the immediate future.

The IMF gold sale was one of the key components in the historic "Cologne debt initiative" launched at the annual G-7 summit in June 1999, to ease the crushing debt burdens of the 36 poorest countries. The G-7 leaders had decided to waive in an all estimated \$70 billion worth of debt held by the poorest countries to ease their crushing debt burdens.

ECONOMIC GROUPS

G-20 launch in December

INDIA, as one of the economically significant nations of the world, has accepted membership of the G-20 to be launched in Berlin in December, 1999.

According to Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha, India is very happy to be in the G-20 because it is based on the recognition that India has an increasing global role and is an important country in the global economy.

The group would help in facilitating greater interaction between developing and developed nations, but it would not be a parallel body to the Bretton Woods Institutions. The G-20 will play an important role in the evolution of the new financial structure.

The G-20 is a successor to the Willard Group which had 33 members, including India. It was organised by the US and other G-7 nations (US, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada) a couple of years ago.

G-20 deputies will meet in November before the ministers meet in December in Berlin under leadership of Canada.

UN

India slams bid for greater role in conflict areas

THE Security Council has endorsed a report by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan containing 40 proposals to strengthen the UN's capacity to protect civilians in times of war.

The Council unanimously adopted a resolution, number 1265, in which it decided to set up a "mechanism to review further the recommendations" in Annan's report and to consider appropriate steps

by April 2000. Canada, the main sponsor of the resolution, described the timing as "brilliant" because it hopes to assume the rotating presidency of the Council in April 2000.

India, however, differed, terming the recommendations violative of the UN Charter and nations' sovereignty. India strongly criticised the recommendations, saying the Security Council would then enter areas beyond its mandate and transgress on the powers of other organs of the world body as also sovereignty of nations.

India ambassador to UN Kamallesh Sharma, stressed that measures to counter illegalities must themselves enjoy complete legality. The sufferings of civilians caught in conflicts, is a emotional issue but the solutions must be "pragmatic and dispassionate."

POPULATION

Day of six billion

ACCORDING to the UN report on the State of the World Population released by UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), on October 12, 1999, the world's population will touch six billion. Of these, close to one billion would be Indians.

The report cautions that the eventual lack of water for irrigation could cut India's grain production by 25 per cent. It warns that in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of the Indian subcontinent, which together contain about a third of the world's population, aquifers are getting depleted and so is the per capita crop land.

The report paints a grim scenario of depleting resources in developing countries, where most of the population increase is taking place. This means greater pressure on the meagre resources of food, cultivable land and provisions for health and nutrition.

On the positive side, the report observes that the overall annual rates of population growth have slowed from 2.4 to 1.8 per cent since 1969. The UNFPA estimates that these rates should fall gradually in the next 20 years, and more rapidly thereafter.

GERMANY

Schroeder's party loses polls

GERMAN Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's social Democratic Party

Do You Know...

The World Investment Report for 1999 of the United Nations Council for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) says that the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to India fell sharply by \$1 billion to \$2.3 billion in 1998. The government had targetted a FDI flow of \$10 billion annually.

has lost elections in two States of Brandenburg and Sarland.

This has also paved the way for an extreme right neo-Nazi party, Deutsche Volks Union (DKU), to enter the Brandenburg parliament for the first time.

The success of DKU, which is run by Bavarian publisher Gerhard Fray has rung alarm bells for the mainstream parties.

The success of DKU came amid rise in support for the far right parties because of high unemployment and bleak economic prospects in much of eastern Germany, nearly ten years after reunification.

There has been increasing disillusionment with Schroeder's ambitious policies of tough austerity in the planned 15 billion dollar cut in the government spending.

AFRICA

Slavery panel asks for compensation

THE African World Reparations Truth Commission, which met in Ghana's capital Accra for its first conference, has demanded US \$ 77 thousand billion (\$ 777 trillion) from the West in compensation for enslavement of Africans.

The commission, consisting of intellectuals from African countries, African Americans and other members of the Africa dispora, is targetting all those nations of Western Europe and Americans, as well as institutions, that participated in an benefitted from the slave trade and colonialism.

Chief among its targets are Britain, France, Belgium, Italy, Holland, Portugal, Spain and the United States. It wants the bill settled within five years. In addition, it wants all African international debts cancelled and for the Western colonisers

to provide boats and planes to all those members of the dispora who wish to return to Africa.

Earlier, US had to pay compensation to Japanese-Americans who were interned unjustly during the 2nd world war. Native Americans have won cases against the US and the Canadian governments over the past seizure of their lands.

The commission has claimed that its demand is reasonable, based on the number of slaves taken from Africa—about 12 million went to the Americas and perhaps twice as many to North Africa and Middle East—and on the mineral wealth that was exploited by foreign powers.

It is unlikely that US \$ 777 trillion will ever be given. But even if the African nations come away with nothing, the exercise will have reminded the West of how its prosperity was earned.

SUMMITS

APEC Summit

THE Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit was held in Auckland in New Zealand, where heads of States and senior representatives from 21 economies, accounting for nearly half the world's trade and \$ 16 trillion in output, participated.

The summit stressed on financial sector reforms to increase competition and prosperity. It hailed Asia's recovery from the economic slump of the past two years, but stressed the need to boost market transparency and regulation.

APEC leaders also agreed to a four point plan that should be the basis of global free trade talks due to start in seattle in November, 1999 under the auspices of World Trade Organization (WTO).

- Comprehensive market access negotiations on industrial tariffs in addition to the already mandated negotiations on services and agriculture.
- Talks should lead to timely and effective improvements in markets access to the benefit of all participating economies.
- Talks should have a "broad based and balanced" agenda and be concluded within 3 years as the single

package.

- The negotiations should seek the abolition of agricultural export subsidies and unjustifiable export barriers.

MIDDLE EAST

Israel transfers 7 per cent West Bank

ISRAEL transferres 7 per cent of West Bank to Palestinian administrative or civil control.

This was the first phase handover of West Bank land which was negotiated in a breakthrough deal signed by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. The new deal is the revised version of Wye River accord, which was frozen by Barak's Right wing predecessor Benjamin Nitanyahu.

The deal provides self rule in an additional 11 per cent of the West Bank, provides for release of 350 Palestinian prisoners in two batches and sets a September 2000 target for reaching final peace.

The handover which has been effected does not require Israeli troop redeployment. Also, Jewish settlements in the West Bank will not be directly affected by the handover since Israel, for now, retains overall control over security in the areas transferred.

EGYPT

Mubarak re-elected

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak was re-elected for a fourth consecutive six year term to lead his country into the next millennium.

Mr Mubarak was the only candidate in the referendum in which some 24 million voters were asked to say whether they wanted him to continue in office.

Mubarak, a leading voice in the Arab world and a prominent leader of non-aligned movement, has been at the helm of affairs in Egypt since his predecessor Anwar Sadat was assassinated by militants in October 1981.

Mubarak is credited with stabilising the country's economy, and recently brokered the Sharm al Sheikh accord between Palestine and Israel.

Do You Know...

Ladakh Scouts have become the first ever regiment of the Indian army to be awarded the chief of Army Staff banner in acknowledgement of their valour displayed during Operation Vijay to drive out Pakistani intruders from Kargil in Kashmir.

Sports

GAMES SAF Games

The 8th SAF Games were opened in Kathmandu on September 25, 1999 by King Birendra Bir Bikram with a colourful opening ceremony. A total of 1069 athletes from 7 participating countries competed for 532 medals in 12 events. On October 4, 'Hiun Kancha', the mascot of the games bade an emotional farewell as the curtains came down. The SAF torch was handed over to Pakistan which would host the 2001 Games at Peshawar.

India dominated the games with 102 Gold, 58 Silver and 37 Bronze medals. They were followed by Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, in that order.

All Africa Games

The All Africa Games were opened by South African President Thabo Mbeki in Johannesburg on September 11, 1999. Over 5,000 athletes in 18 sports took part. South Africa proved themselves the best sporting nation in Africa as they topped the medal tally.

CRICKET

Singapore Challenge Cup

West Indies beat India by 4 wickets in the replayed final to lift the trophy.

DMC Cup

India beat West Indies by 88 runs to seal the three-match one-day series 2-1 to claim the DMC Cup played at Toronto.

In the second part of DMC Cup, Pakistan beat West Indies 3-0 to lift the trophy.

Irani Trophy

Tamil Nadu beat Ranji champions Karnataka by 60 runs to lift the trophy. The match was played at Bangalore.

Sri Lanka-Australia Test Series

Sri Lanka tasted their first ever Test victory over Australia with a 6-wicket win in the first test played at Kandy. The other two matches ended in draw because of rain, thus giving Sri Lanka their first ever series win.

LG Cup

South Africa beat India by 26 runs to win the LG Cup quadrangular one-day tournament held at Nairobi. The other two participant teams were Kenya and Zimbabwe.

FOOTBALL

Subroto Cup

Government Boys High Secondary School (Shullong) lifted the Cup, beating former champions Sukantnagar Vidyaniketan (Calcutta) 1-0 in the match held at New Delhi.

GOLF

Women's World Championship

Pak Se-Ri of South Korea beat Australian Karrie Webb to win the title.

Ryder Cup

Justin Leonard helped the US win the Ryder Cup played at Brookline, US.



Indian race driver Narain Karthikeyan, whose father was a rally driver, hopes to become the first Indian to race on Formula One circuits. Auto racing is at the moment almost non-existent in India.

players won eight singles matches and halved another to beat Europe.

SQUASH

World Team Championship

Egypt beat Wales 3-0 to win the Championship. The championship was held at Cairo, Egypt.

TENNIS

Federation Cup

The US team led by world number two Lindsay Davenport recaptured the Federation Cup by beating Russia in the finals.

Tennis: US OPEN, 1999

Andre Agassi beat Rodd Martin to capture his fifth Grand Slam title and second US Open crown.

In the women's section, Serena Williams first overpowered world number one Martina Hingis for the Open crown and then joined Venus to win the women's doubles title.

Habib Razaee and Ali Saeed won the mixed doubles title.



Current General Knowledge

AWARDS

Nobel Prize for Literature, 1999

German novelist Gunter Grass is the winner of the 1999 Nobel Prize for literature.

The academy said in its citation that it had awarded the prize to Grass, "whose frolicsome black fables portray the forgotten face of history". Grass came to fame with his novel 'The tin drum', later made into a film, which in a fantastic but humorous style draws on his childhood in what was then the German city of Danzig, but is now the Polish port of Gdansk.

Magsaysay Awards, 1999

For government service: Tasneem Ahmed Siddiqui, Pakistan.

For public service: Rosa Rosal, Philippines.

For community leadership: Angela Gomes, Bangladesh.

For journalism, literature and creative arts: Lin Hwai-Min, Taiwan and Raul Locsin, Philippines.

Bhatnagar Awards, 1999

Biological sciences: Siddhartha Roy of Bose Institute, Calcutta and V. Nagaraja of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

Chemical sciences: Ganesh Prasad Pandey of National Chemical Laboratory,



Asami Koriyama, employee of Japan's electronic device maker IO DATA shows off the smallest MP3 digital audio player **Hyper Hyde**, measuring 47.2mm x 53.5mm x 16.6mm, which enables to record 66 minutes sound with a 32MB Multi Media Card (MMC).

Pune and Deb Shankar Ray of Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Calcutta.

Engineering sciences: R. Narasimhan of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

Mathematical sciences: Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar of Indian Statistical

Institute, Bangalore.

Medical sciences: Dr Chintalagiri Mohanrao of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad.

Physical sciences: E.V. Sampathkumaran and Sunil Mukhi of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai.

Chandra Observatory pictures Crab Nebula



Nebula had just been created.

Almost one thousand years later, the Crab Nebula still glows, and informs us of its fascinating story.

At the close of its existence, this star recycles itself into the fabric of our universe. It simply explodes, not from its surface as do other less massive stars, but from the very core of its central fire. We are still witnessing this explosion, 7000 years after it occurred. Yes, no mistake has been made. It really did happen 7000 years ago. The nebula is so far that light takes more than 6000 years to reach the earth.

It was just another day in the year 1054. A dazzling light ten billion times more energetic than that of the Sun burst into the daytime heavens. Although so far away that it seemed a mere pinpoint, Chinese astronomers reported that the new heavenly jewel outshone all the stars visible in the sky. Its intense glow ruled the sky for months. You could READ by its fiery light.

For several hundred days, the star was visible during the day, slowly, slowly fading toward the obscurity from which it emerged. The Crab

BM Birla Science Award, 1997

Biology: Anil Grover. **Physics:** Mohit Randeria and Madan Rao. **Mathematics:** T.N. Venkataramana. **Chemistry:** Pratim Kumar Chatterjee and Santanu Bhattacharya.

CSIR Young Scientist Award, 1999

Alok Dhawan of Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow; **Suman Kumari Mishra** of National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur; **K. Yamuna Rani** of Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad.

Gojurnal Medi Award, 1999

Space scientist **U.R. Rao** is the recipient of the award.

Literacy Awards

Solapur and Satara in Maharashtra, Jalore in Rajasthan and Dhanbad in Bihar have been chosen as literacy districts by the National Literacy Mission and have been awarded the Satyen Maitra Memorial National Awards for literacy for 1998-99.

Lata Mangeshkar Award, 1999

Playback singer Asha Bhosle is the recipient of the Lata Mangeshkar Award for 1999 for her contribution in the field of music.

AVIATION

Sahara Airlines introduces e-ticketing

Sahara Airlines became the first domestic airline to introduce electronic-ticketing for passengers allowing them to book their tickets, seat numbers and select their choice of meal on the internet.

The airline is also looking at home delivery of tickets as well, once the domestic passengers in India are allowed to buy tickets on the net by using credit cards.

Passengers having only hand luggage and who have already booked their tickets will be able to do an Internet check-in, just like the present tele-check-in being offered by all domestic airlines

BOOKS

The Tin Drum, Cat and Mouse, Dog Years

Written by German novelist Gunter Grass, this year's Nobel prize winner for literature, these novels are known as The Danzig Trilogy and capture the rise of Nazism, the horrors of war and the guilt that lingered in the aftermath of Adolf Hitler's regime.

Development as Freedom

The new book by Nobel laureate Amartya Sen is a discussion about how economies grow and how people can benefit from that growth.

CYBERSPACE

Y2K Global Picture

At midnight on New Year's Eve in New Zealand, an extraordinary UN-backed emergency watch will kick off on the Internet to keep tabs on how the world is faring as it enters the year 2000.

Greenwich Mean Time will be 13 hours behind; the east coast of the United States 17 hours. That lag could help others deal with any Y2K-related failures that pop up in New Zealand, the first industrialised country to enter the new century.

The real-time, comprehensive Web-based view of the Y2K problem—and any havoc it may be wreaking on essential services anywhere—is the work of a World Bank-funded outfit known as the International Y2K Cooperation Centre.

Using a standardised reporting format, the centre plans to collect data from 170 or more national Y2K coordinators. Its Web site, <http://www.iy2kcc.org>, will flash colour-coded indicators on everything from energy and communications to financial services, government services and air, land and sea transport.

EDUCATION

Engineering degree on the Internet

Engineering graduates can now get a master's degree sitting at home and accessing the Worldwide Web site launched by the Anna University of Tamil Nadu in collaboration with a Pune-based software company.

Thousands of teachers, professionals and students are expected to register for the web-based Master of Engineering (ME) course of the university.

The two-year course will require an outlay of around Rs 1,20,000. The degree would be helpful for NRI students since the costs are considerably cheaper. Students will only have to appear in person for the final examination at the Anna University. The Web course has been recognised by the All India Council of Technical Education, New Delhi.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Kaiga-II becomes critical

In a significant achievement, India now has its first-ever computer operated nuclear power reactor—which will supply electricity to the southern grid comprising Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Goa.

It is the 11th nuclear power reactor in India. But unlike the earlier reactors, Kaiga-II has a centralised computer

control room. It will provide full information to the engineers regarding the status of the plant so as to enable them to operate the plant efficiently and effectively.

Having a capacity of 220 MW, Kaiga-II has been built at a cost of Rs 2,896 crore. The reactor has been made more effective by adapting to a new the simple design. It uses natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as a moderator and coolant. It is completely indigenous, a matter of pride for the nation.

PERSONS

Gorbachev, Raisa

Wife of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, the former first lady of Russia died in West Germany on September 20, 1999. Married in 1953, she became a lecturer at Moscow University when her husband returned to Moscow as a rising communist party official.

Grass, Gunter

Winner of this year's Nobel Prize for literature, Gunter Grass has been described as an apostle of enlightenment in an era that has grown tired of reason. Born in 1927 of Polish-German parents, he has written several books and has frequently provoked controversy

PLACES

Taipei

The capital of Taiwan, which was the scene of an earthquake that killed 1500 people. Over one lakh people were left homeless.

Tokaimura

The scene of the nuclear accident in Japan in which three workers were exposed to radiation.

PROJECTS

Alternative Road to Kargil

The Border Roads Organisation has started construction of a 62-km road between Drass and Kargil via Sankoo as an alternative to National Highway No. 1A, which was heavily shelled by the Pakistan army during the Kargil conflict.

The new road is expected to be ready by 2001. The alternative highway, running through Omballa Pass and Sankoo, will

Link Leh also. Though the length of the new highway between Kargil and Leh will be longer than the existing NH 1A, it will be totally safe from attacks by the Pakistani army.

RESEARCH

Gadget to translate scripts

A hi-tech gadget which scans printed characters of two of the most popular Indian scripts Bengali and Devnagiri, corrects all errors and automatically translates the written text into speech, has been developed by scientists.

It is the first bi-script, bilingual Optical Character Recognition (OCR) system of its kind to be developed in the country. Envisioned by a team of four computer scientists headed by Dr Umapada Pal of the Indian Statistical Institute, the OCR is expected to be of immense help for the blind, who can now 'hear' any printed text in these two languages.

The system is expected to be cleared by June 2000 and will be commercialised after that.

SPACE

Mars Climate Orbiter Destroyed

An unnoticed navigation error has sent the \$ 900-million Mars Climate Orbiter probe to a fiery end above the red planet. The probe was probably destroyed when it was went too close to the red planet—an embarrassing error for an agency that prides itself in providing navigational precision.

The MCO is just the latest in a string of failed missions from Earth to the red planet: 20 of 32 probes to Mars, from the United States, Russia and Japan, have failed. Ten, however, succeeded, including the Mars Global Surveyor, currently in orbit around Mars. Two are still on their way.

MISCELLANY

ISRO to set up space museums

The National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) will set up a series of hi-tech 'space museums' throughout the country in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

The museum chain, whose blueprint

is being finalised by NCSM, is proposed to be set up in phases in the four metro cities and all State capitals. The museums will serve as centres for inculcating scientific temper among the masses by answering all their queries on space sciences and astronomy.

The exciting world of astronauts, history of space, flight in space and air, launching systems, capability fuels, mission controls and working of communication and remote sensing satellites will be explained with the help of sophisticated hands-on exhibits.

A common section in all these museums will be devoted to the Indian contribution to space science over the ages, which has made tremendous progress in recent years.

The ISRO proposal came during the inauguration of the country's first space gallery at Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum, Bangalore, in June, 1999.

A New Computer Virus

A new computer virus has been identified that infects Microsoft Word documents and threatens to wipe out computer hard drives on December 13. The threat has been caught early enough to prevent its widescale spread.

The "Thursday" virus, as it has been nicknamed, has the potential to destroy information stored on hard disks on computers running Microsoft Corp's Word 97 word processing programme.

Several anti-virus companies are offering free programmes that will detect and remove the Thursday virus.

First women to join Merchant Navy

22-year old Sonika Joshi has created history by being among the first three Indian women to have joined the Merchant Navy.

After completing her Bachelor of Nautical Science from Bombay University, deck cadet Sonika was hired by the US company, Mobil, and has already spent two months as part of the Saucon's crew, shuttling between Singapore and Australian ports.

Richest Indians in America

Three American entrepreneurs of Indian origin have achieved billionaire status, according to Forbes magazine. In the publication's annual listing of the richest Americans, six Indian Americans made the list of the top 400 in wealth.

Rajendra Singh, 45, chairman and chief executive officer of Telecom Ventures, which owns a major stake in Vienna (Virginia)-based Teligent, was the highest ranked Indian American.

He was about halfway down the list with a net worth estimated at \$ 1.1 billion. Teligent, which is publicly-traded, is a high-speed data service company. Singh was followed two places later by Sanjiv Sidhu, the co-founder and chief executive of Irving (Texas)-based 12 Technologies. The 42-year-old Sidhu has a net worth of about \$ 1.1 billion. His company, founded in 1988, makes supply chain management software.

The richest Indian American in California and in third place among Indian Americans in the US was Vinod Khosla, partner in the Silicon Valley venture capital firm of Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers. Khosla, 44, was given a \$ 1 billion valuation

Top British Films in History

Richard Attenborough's *Gandhi* and Shekhar Kapoor's *Elizabeth* have made it to a British list of top 100 films of this century

The Third Man (1949) by Carol Reed tops the list followed by David Lean's *Brief Encounter* (1945) and *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962), Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps* (1935) and Lean's 1946 film *Great Expectations*.

Elizabeth, released in 1999 became eligible because the BFI found it "culturally British" besides being produced by a British company, 'Working Title.'

Other films in the top ten (from five to ten in that order) are *Kind Hearts and Coronets* (1946) by R. Hamer, *Kes* (1969) by Ken Loach, *The Red Shoes* (1948) by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, *Don't look now* (1973) by Nicholas Roeg and *Trainspotting* (1996) by Danny Boyle.

Appointments Etc

APPOINTED, ELECTED ETC

M.C. Muthiah: He has been elected president of the Indian cricket board.

Kapil Dev: He has been appointed as the national coach for the Indian cricket team.

G.P. Goenka: Chairman of the Duncan group, he has been elected as president of FICCI.

DIED

Raisa Gorbachev: Wife of the last Soviet President, Mikhail Gorbachev.

Hasrat Jaipuri: Renowned lyricist of the Hindi cinema.

George C. Scott: The famous actor who refused Oscars for his performances in *Patton* and *Dr Strangelove*.

Akio Morita: Co-founder of Sony Corporation and the man who gave the world the *walkman*. He was 78.

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

8—At least 50 people are killed as an earthquake rocks Athens.

9—A powerful bomb explosion rips through a nine-storey building in Moscow killing at least 20 people.

11—A 56% turnout is reported in the second phase of polling for the Lok Sabha elections.

13—A powerful bomb destroys a Moscow housing block, killing over 45 people.

18—Poll violence in Bihar claims 31 lives, including those of 21 policemen, as Naxalites explode landmines.

21—More than 1000 people are killed and nearly 3,500 injured as an earthquake rocks Taiwan. Over 1 lakh people are left homeless.

25—Two State ministers are arrested and five persons are killed in Bihar during the fourth round of Lok Sabha elections.

27—International peace keepers assume control of East Timor.

30—An accident at a nuclear fuel facility in Tokaimura in Japan exposes three workers to radiation and prompts evacuation of the neighbouring areas.

OCTOBER

1—Celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of Communist China begin in Beijing.

—Campaigning for the fifth and final phase of the elections ends.

2—A seize of the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok ends dramatically as the group of five heavily armed attackers release 89 hostages and escapes by helicopter to the Thai-Myanmar border.

4—One person is killed and 14 injured in Anantnag in poll-related violence, while two deaths are reported from West Bengal.

—Security forces in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) fire teargas shells and resort to lathi-charge to thwart an attempt by the JKLF to cross the Line of Control

8—The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) wins a majority in the 13th Lok Sabha elections.

ELECTIONS 1999 Results

Total Seats: 543 Elections held: 537

BJP & Allies

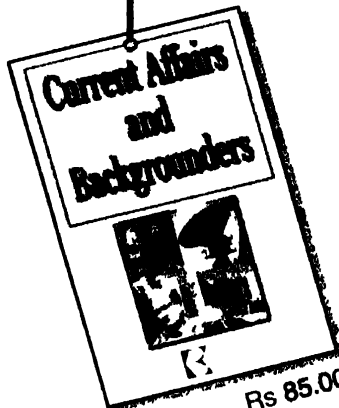
BJP	182
Shiv Sena	15
JD(U)	20
SAD	2
TDP	27
Trinamool	8
BJD	10
NC	4
PMK	5
DMK	12
MDMK	4
Haryana Vikas	1
Lok Dal	5
Loktantrik Congress	1
Others	2
Total	296

Congress & Allies

Cong	113
RJD	7
AIDMK	10

KC	1
ML	2
Others	3
Total	136
Others	
CPM	32
CPI	4
AIFB	2
RSP	3
CPIM(L)	1
NCP	7
JD(S)	1
BSP	14
HVC	1
SJP	1
SDF	1
SSP	26
Ind	4
Others	6
Total	103

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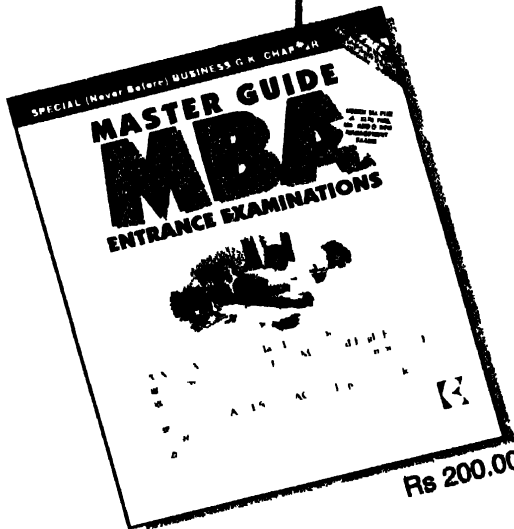
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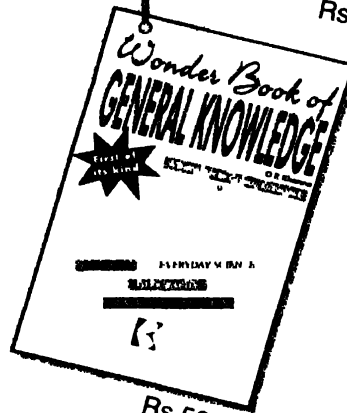
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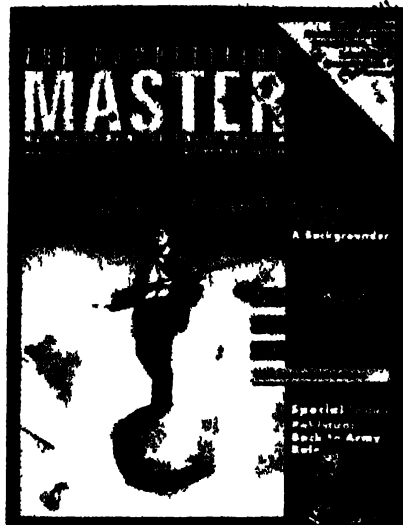
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Readers' Letters

The best two letter of the month appearing in the box have been awarded a prize of Rs 100 00 each. Readers are invited to send us their views on topics covered in this issue. You can also e mail your response to letters@competitionmaster.com. The decision of the Editor will be final.

NEW CAREERS

These days young people do not want to get stuck in traditional areas and want to explore new avenues. There are many job opportunities but once again it is emphasised that getting a good education is essential. Indeed, every career requires patience and hard work. There are no short cuts in life.

Shilpi Roy
Allahabad UP

WAR AS A NATION-BUILDER

I disagree that war is a nation builder. A mere 15 days of war may push a country backwards by years. The patriotism and high morale of the people fades away as fast as it builds up. Therefore, extolling war as a nation-builder is as good as commending the role of criminals in generating employment in the form of police, judges and other officials.

Shupender Sharma
Jamnagar Gujarat

WHAT GOOD IS CENSORSHIP?

Creative freedom should not mean the license to do anything at will. If a certain amount of control is necessary to make a person disciplined, a certain amount of censorship is also necessary to maintain social order. However, censorship must not degenerate into excessive prudery and power play. Our society may not be

permissive, but we do not want anyone to sit on moral judgement over artistic films. The censor board should not be run by nannies.

Jitu Changmai
Jorhat, Assam

It is stupid for the censor board to stick to outdated ideas in these times of globalisation and technological progress. Some changes are necessary in our approach to censoring movies. There should be younger people on the Censor Board who are more aware of modern realities.

Gopal Kumar
Muzaffarpur, Bihar

The Censor Board should not act as a conscience keeper of the nation. Some amount of censorship may be necessary but to prevent people from viewing artistic films is not good. Ironically, the Board actually helps what it tries to prevent, since the resultant publicity for the movie makes people want to see it more. Censorship should not be left to the whims and fancies of some individuals.

Jyotirnanjan Biswal
vill Durgapur, Orissa

Film makers introduce sex and violence in order to make money. Such films deserve to be censored. However, the Censor Board should be responsible to the people and must not act in a highbrow manner.

Vikas Gill
Rohtak, Haryana

NEW CAREERS ONLY FOR THE CITY-BRED

Your cover feature described avenues in which young people can earn handsome salaries. The gloomy side of the picture is that a lot of students from rural areas do not get access to these courses. This is because there are hardly any institutions in rural areas. Many young people are also unable to come to cities to take up these courses. Another problem is that students from rural areas lack skill in English and are not able to adjust in these courses. Many of the new opportunities are thus passing by the people living in villages.

Pranav Kumar
Darbhanga, Biha

WAR IS NOT A NATION-BUILDER

Wars have never done anyone any good. Yes, they bring people closer to each other, but only against someone else and that too, for a short period. Nationalism and patriotism are hollow ideals as they benefit only a few vested interests. Narrow interests harm humanity. War can, thus, never contribute to nation-building.

Mammeet Sandhu
Amritsar, Punjab

CHILD LABOUR

Poverty, illiteracy and ignorance are some of the prime factors responsible for child labour. It cannot be removed simply by imposing a ban. The first thing to do is to create public awareness. If people help out the poor by giving them work and not employ children in their homes and shops, this problem can be rooted out.

Babita Samal
Sambalpur, Orissa

CM FEATURES

The article "Three Secrets

of Success" (September '99) boosted my confidence. It helped me to plan my time and prevented distractions. I thank you for this article.

G Mahendar Reddy
Hyderabad

Aspirants of IAS like me would be helped a great deal if you publish expected questions for the general studies paper. There are a number of books in the market but none are on target and their approach is also not as good as CM.

Prantik Bagchi
Calcutta

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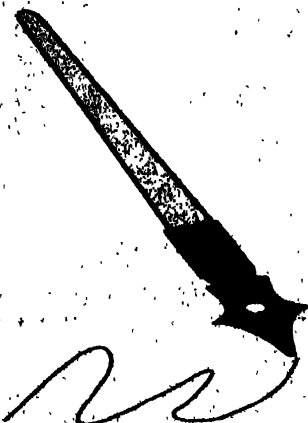
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From the Desk of the

Editor



Dear Readers

Every time a disaster takes place, relief measures are shown to be deliberately slow. Train accidents and natural disasters have time and again shown that people help out each other while the government is conspicuous by its absence or slowness. So it was with the Orissa cyclone. The neglect of the government, as dead bodies lay rotting in the open, was nothing short of criminal. The army was called in, but this does beg the question: what is the state administration for? In practically all districts, district administrations have failed to provide relief to the affected people.

The government has a bloated bureaucracy, but it appears that the officers and the babus do nothing except draw salaries and consolidate their powers. The cyclone has brought this out very cruelly indeed. There could be no better argument for downsizing the government than the pathetic display of non-governance in Orissa.

This is a sobering thought as we come to end of the 1990s.

At THE COMPETITION MASTER, we are putting together a special issue to mark the passing of the century. Along with the round-up of national and international affairs, we will have a special supplement commemorating the events and people that shaped this century. The issue will be packed with information and will undoubtedly become a collector's copy. Make sure you book your copy!

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Democracy and Development

"The role of democracy is important in enhancing freedom of other kinds also as like freedom from hunger. It has been seen that democratic countries have not seen major famines in recent years. Whenever democratic freedom is suppressed, problems have arisen in achieving a high rate of development as was the case of colonial India, and more recently the famine-ridden countries of Sudan and North Korea." (Amartya Sen).

Although comparisons are odious, yet they are as natural to human psyche as they are to nation-States. Regardless of the political systems that peoples of the world have adopted over the ages, the temptation to assess levels of development, both economic as well as human, is irresistible. No matter how we look at our successes and failures, advances and backwardness, during the past five decades or so vis-a-vis China, the question that still daunts and haunts quite a few doubting Thomases is whether democracy and development are compatible and consistent with the rising aspirations of the people. The answer is emphatic 'yes', provided our priorities and proclivities are in place and in order. No doubt, without people's participation in political and developmental processes in a pluralistic society like India, we cannot hope to overcome many storms that erupt in our socio-economic spectrum from time to time. Democracy is a political concept definitely tinged with economic agenda. Though slow in concept and concrete action, democracy looks at economic development as a peaceful means to uplift the masses from abject poverty, ignominious illiteracy, and debilitating diseases of different kinds.

In a democratic set-up like ours, liberalisation is not an end in itself. It is supposed to correct the mistakes of our earlier policies, on the basis of national consensus, but not necessarily change their

objective, which was development with social justice, removal of poverty, unemployment and social deprivation, as well as regional disparities. If the World Bank's latest assessment on poverty has shown an increase in the numbers of those living below the poverty line, despite the fact that India is the fifth largest economy in the world after the U.S., Germany, China and Japan but struggling at 124 out of 157 nations listed in its latest report, the sceptics have every argument in their armour to say that democracy and development do not go together. In the opinion of Gustavo Esteva "development stinks because it is incompatible with social justice and cultural survival. It is being used to justify the imposition of unequal sacrifices on the weak by impersonal agencies like the market and the State in the name of liberty or liberalisation."

Our trust with democracy is neither very old nor fully exposed to development of the Western style and speed. In our democratic set-up "too many agencies are working on a project and like too many cooks, they tend to spoil the broth. Every plan has to filter through too many people which causes delay and hence escalates costs and confusion. If one looks at the past, that is quite an ambition. If one considers the potential that is an apology." This cryptic comment on our developmental plans, projects and programmes is neither an exaggeration nor an uncalled for indictment of our trust in democracy. There is no denying that the pace of development in a democratic but diverse polity like India is tedious and tardy and the bottle-necks on the way to development and distributive justice or benefits reaching the most needy and deserving ones too strong to break in one go.

In a functional democracy, the voter is more interested in tangible development than populist sops. If on close analysis

we find our democracy incapable of addressing basic needs of the people, something very substantial in concept and execution seems to have gone awry. If focussing only on the political aspect of democracy, at the cost of social and economic aspects, our vision has developed certain blinkers that needs immediate remedial measures. In fact, the rise of regional parties on the political horizon of India is linked with the lack or inadequate economic development.

Irrespective of the bug and burden of ideology, it is the freedom-centred development that forms a more secure and deep basis of democratic virtues and values. The role of the States in promoting development depends on how effectively they provide safety nets, and a host of other services to the community. They are not supposed to stifle initiative and enterprise, because the lack of democracy and liberty are intrinsically related with the lack of civil rights, impoverished lives and gender-related inequalities.

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Bolt From Blue-eyed Boy

Whether history is 'distilled rumour' or not is a moot point but when it repeats itself the price is doubled. This is the lesson Mian Nawaz Sharif, the deposed Prime Minister of "rascal State", must ruefully remembering languishing agonisingly in "protective custody" of the army.

The source and cause of his agony, and uncertain future, is none but his own blue-eyed boy, chief of Pak army, Parvez Musharraf. The latter was a favourite of the erratic Prime Minister who had promoted him to the top position superseding two seniors. What Nawaz Sharif obviously had blinked away was the stark historical fact three other Generals had done in the past what Musharraf has—Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan, and Zia-ul-Haq.

Z A Bhutto had picked Zia as he was the fawning type who gladly bore taunts and snubs from the cigar-smoking Bhutto. Bhutto often poked fun at the General's "pigeon-

chest". What was the outcome? Bhutto obviously buried his head in the sand!

Now that the army is ruling the ruined roost in Pakistan, the Chief Executive is faced with a couple of problems. He cannot afford to release the captive Prime Minister because outside the "protective custody", he can bare his

elbow and at the same time make appropriate noises to prevent Washington grunting too much. The army, licking its

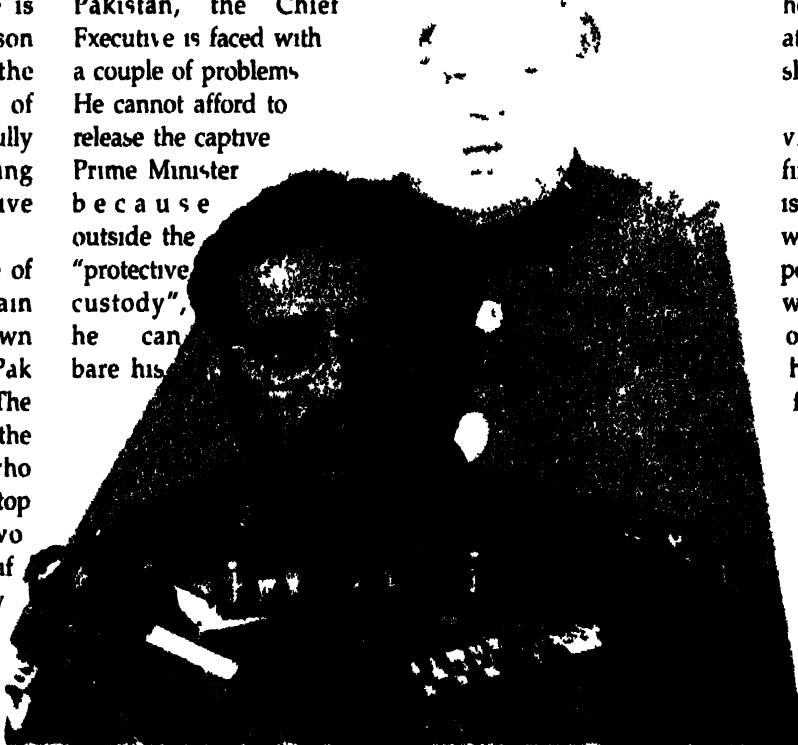
army is to have India as an enemy.

The fundamentalists and the Taliban will always spur him on to 'glorious action' to help "our Kashmiri brothers attain liberation from Hindu slavery".

India needs to be extra vigilant now because the finger on the nuclear button is that of an army die-hard who is accountable to no people's institution. The USA will do only what suits its own global interests. China has no *bhai bhai* pretension for us, now.

Pious pronouncements regarding restoration of democracy in Pakistan, despite international pressure, is a wishful thing, as of present. The man riding the tiger cannot dismount. The army which has a reputation for being in drug "business" will like to feather its nest.

What is likely is a facade of democracy. History tells that Zia proclaimed a return to people's government within 90 days of his capturing power but remained in the saddle for 11 years!



fangs. The economy is in shambles. He faces sanctions which can deliver crippling blows making the common man rise against the army rule. He has to keep the fundamentalists on his right

wounds after the Kargil fiasco, is raring to have another go at India under the new establishment headed by "our own Parvez". The chief, no amiable duffer, knows that the very justification for the

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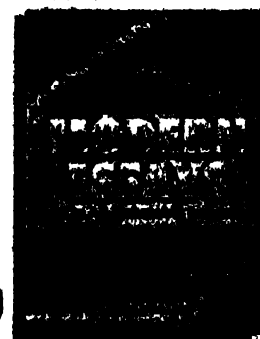
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Military Coup in Pakistan

Ever since Pakistan was created, it has lived in the shadow of the army. The generals have been in power for half of the 50 years of existence of independent Pakistan. Still, the military coup in which the elected government of Nawaz Sharif was dismissed, came as a surprise. It would have seemed that the army would not take up the onerous task of managing the country beset with problems and would have preferred to pull strings without being in power. But Sharif's sacking of the military general brought about his dismissal. Once again, the clock has been turned back and martial law has been imposed in Pakistan.

This feature gives the background of the coup, as also what it means for the region, especially for India. It gives the history of Pakistan and discusses the future of democracy in the country.

ON October 12, 1999, Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif sacked Army Chief General Pervez Musharraf, who was on his way home after an official trip to Colombo, and appointed Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) Chief Lt-Gen Khawaja Ziauddin Butt in his place. Loyalists of the Army Chief quickly launched a 'counter-coup' and gained control of the airport and the TV centre in Islamabad. Nawaz Sharif, his senior ministers and Ziauddin were put under house arrest. The Pakistani army had grabbed power for the fifth time in 52 years in a nation that had toyed with democracy but never really succeeded.

The coup had been predicted. For some time warnings had been heard that Nawaz Sharif was in a precarious position. His downfall was a matter of speculation ever since Pakistani troops had to withdraw from Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC), a national humiliation. The army had been the

author of the Kargil intrusions and the orders for retreat had hurt it badly. When Sharif had ordered the withdrawal, there were angry scenes in Pakistani streets: the nation had rallied behind the army as it was seen to have achieved the impossible task of putting the Indian army in a defensive position, if only for a short period—and the withdrawal was seen as a betrayal. The impression created in Pakistan was that the nation was not defeated by India, but was only forced to withdraw after pressure from USA.

Nawaz Sharif's dismissal was, thus, a cause of celebration among the Pakistani people. He had won the elections by a big margin and had become the most powerful civilian leader, having successfully curtailed the powers of the presidency, judiciary, and legislature. He had also tried to muzzle the press, which was seen in his jailing without trial the editor of *Friday Times*, Najam Sethi. The people were getting wary of the Prime Minister—not only were the country's institutions being undermined, but there were allegations of corruption as well. He had lost the goodwill of the people.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) suspended discussions for new loans and wanted democracy restored before more money would be given. The USA also sent the same message: President Clinton and Secretary of State Madeline Albright made it clear that the country could not do business with a military junta. At first the general seemed inclined to install a civilian government, but after two days of trying to find a credible alternative, finally announced martial law and made himself the Chief Executive of the State. It was the fear of the Western reaction that had deterred General Musharraf, since IMF is a lifeline for the troubled nation. But he had no option and now has brought the

clock back. Pakistan has come face to face with its troubled history once again.

Troubled history

PAKISTAN was created when the British partitioned India in 1947. Lying between India, Afghanistan and China, the country has enjoyed US attention for many years. Since India was a Soviet ally, the USA propped up Pakistan as a counter to Soviet influence in the region. Pakistan received much support from the US during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

While India chose democracy after independence, military governments have ruled Pakistan for 25 of the last 50 years. The country is poor and corruption is common. But that has not prevented it from pursuing its ambition of trying to humble India. It spends disproportionately on defence and has acquired missiles and nuclear know-how clandestinely from China and North Korea. One of its former leaders had declared that the country would get its nuclear bomb "even if the people had to eat grass". It is this hate that has motivated the Pakistanis and its leaders take up a self-destructive path. It has fought three wars with India and has been beaten every time: the last war in 1971 saw the dismemberment of the country when Bangladesh was created.

The military has always held the upper hand in Pakistan. The country has a long history of meddling by the armed forces. After independence, Mohammed Ali Jinnah became the first Governor General of Pakistan and Liaquat Ali Khan became the Prime Minister. The country consisted of two parts, East and West Pakistan. In the 1950s tensions grew between the Bengali East Pakistan and Punjabi West Pakistan, which dominated

the civil services and the army. A new Constitution was adopted in 1956 and Pakistan formally became a republic within the British Commonwealth. In 1958, General Ayub Khan gained power after President Mirza abolished the Constitution, as a reaction to economic problems, political crises and ethnic strife. He was elected President in 1960 and again in 1965. He created a federal republic consisting of the two parts of the country, improved relations with India, but also established ties with China.

Bloody riots forced him from power in 1969 and General Yahya Khan took over. He had to step down following civil war and two years later, East Pakistan declared its independence with the support from India. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto became Prime Minister, who sought to improve economic conditions but was frustrated by political turmoil. In 1977, Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) won the elections but riots erupted which were ended when General Zia ul-Haq seized power. Bhutto was hanged and Zia ruled dictatorially. He developed the country's nuclear capability. In 1985, martial law was lifted and a national assembly elected. He promised elections but in 1988 dissolved the assembly and declared Islamic law supreme. In August of the same year, he was killed in a plane crash.

In November, 1988, the first democratic elections in a decade brought Pakistan's People's Party, led by Bhutto's daughter Benazir, to power. Her government was dismissed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan amid charges of corruption and abuse of power. She was re-elected in 1993 but was dismissed again on charges of corruption. She lost the elections in 1997, which Nawaz Sharif won. Once again history has repeated itself and an elected government has been thrown out. It is now Nawaz Sharif who faces charges of corruption and must face trial. He has already been charged with treason and sedition, for which he may well get the death penalty.

The fall of Sharif

FOR long, it was felt that Sharif was ruling the country like a dictator. The

economy was on the verge of collapse and there was ethnic trouble as well. The final straw came when Pakistan was forced to withdraw from Kargil under international pressure. Even then the army was perhaps not inclined to seize power and take up the thankless job of governing the country. But Nawaz Sharif's decision to sack the Army Chief forced the army's hand. Sharif must have calculated that the possibility of an army coup was remote, since the West disliked military regimes. But his calculations went awry as the general was not in a mood to be sacked.

India has not reacted to the coup but it is expected that relations with the military regime will not be smooth. The army's anger at Nawaz Sharif's policy of dialogue and compromise was made obvious when Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee had arrived at the Wagah border to sign the Lahore declaration and General Musharraf had failed to show up at the ceremonies. The disturbances in Kashmir and elsewhere in India are also encouraged by the army and Pakistan's ISI. Now that the generals are in power, they may want to step up such activities. India also has to remain wary of the generals as they may well attempt another Kargil type operation to keep up their popularity with the people: it is the best way to divert attention of the people from domestic troubles.

It also remains to be seen how the military plans to control the rising Islamic fundamentalism in the country, which has resulted in much violence as rival sects have attacked each other. This is also a difficult task, as the army makes use of Islamic fundamentalists in its proxy war with India. If Pakistan uses international terrorists like Osama Bin Laden, it may unleash forces within that country itself which may bring it to ruin.

Will the West opt to isolate and pressurise the army to restore democratic rule or will it choose to work with it? The latter situation seems more likely, for the reason that no alternative is in sight. Both the popular leaders—Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif—are discredited. Having staged the coup, the army will have to take up the task of

governing the unruly country by itself. USA may also have no choice but to work with the military junta. It has, after all, worked closely with the last military government headed by Zia ul-Haq. The US has also recognised that the military is a source of stability in a fractious and volatile nation.

Task of governance

THE task of governance, however, will not be easy. Internal conditions are at their lowest ebb with sectarian violence between Shias and Sunnis threatening a civil war, and the economy on the verge of collapse. In such a situation, the only option would be to take recourse to religious sanction and push the country into a fresh round of Islamic rule. Will Pakistan, then, end up the Taliban way?

The worry for India and the rest of the world is great because of recent nuclearisation of the sub-continent. The military could be reckless and the threat of war has always existed, but now the danger is more since the rulers may try to divert attention from the internal problems by indulging in a conflict with India. It has to be remembered that two or three wars with Pakistan took place when there was a military ruler in that country: Ayub Khan in 1965 and Yahya Khan in 1971.

Pakistan stands at a brink today. It could collapse or recover from its sorry state. It is up to General Musharraf to show that he has the vision to save his country. He has to do three things. First, he has to reduce hostilities with India, with which Pakistan has always engaged in a low key conflict. Escalating this to another war would spell doom for Pakistan. Second, he has to move the country towards democracy. That is the only way that he can get the much needed aid for his country. Finally, the general must give up control. If he holds on to power for too long, the military will stand discredited in just the way that other leaders of Pakistan have lost the support of the people. That could well be the last straw and lead to collapse of the already beleaguered nation.

Inter-State Water Disputes

Rivers take their water from one part of the country to another as they flow towards the ocean. Man has depended on these rivers for survival. In the past, many great civilisations have been born on the banks of rivers. But, when rivers are stopped by building dams or are diverted through canals, disputes arise because downstream States cannot get enough water. In India, the problem is severe because rivers are a source of livelihood and much agony in the dry season they are the only means of survival and in times of floods they cause huge destruction. But if dams are built, upstream States utilise the water themselves, leaving little to flow naturally. The Cauvery dispute has lingered for long and has brought the focus on water disputes. This feature examines the Cauvery dispute as also the various water disputes among different States, which have lingered on over the years.

WATER is essential for life. Man has traditionally used rivers, groundwater and other sources for his needs. However, increasing agriculture and population demands greater quantities of water, and it is fast becoming scarce. Globally, the supply of fresh water has decreased and it has also been predicted that future wars will be fought on water rights. Already, many countries have lingering water disputes with neighbours regarding the right to use or dam rivers that are flowing through their borders. Downstream countries find that they are at the mercy of upstream countries for release of water.

India had a similar dispute regarding sharing of Ganga waters with Bangladesh. Jammu and Kashmir wants compensation for foregoing its harnessing rights on Chenab, Jhelum and Indus rivers, following the Indus Water treaty with Pakistan. Within the country, many States fight for riparian rights, after the Reorganisation of States in 1956. The

Almatti dam brought Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh fighting over sharing of the Krishna river. Kerala and Tamil Nadu fight over the acceptable permissible height of the Mullaperiyar dam. Punjab and Haryana have a dispute over the sharing of the Ravi-Beas surplus water.

The Sardar Sarovar project has Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat fighting over its height. An accord was signed on May 12, 1994 for sharing of the Yamuna waters between Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, UP, Rajasthan and Haryana. The dispute seems to have settled, but the BJP government in Delhi has expressed dissatisfaction that the growing needs of the Capital have not been met. Finally, the Cauvery water dispute reaches its flashpoint every season between three States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.

Resolving Disputes

SEVERAL times these disputes have reached the courts. However, the answer lies in political negotiations and some problems have been solved in the past. The national policy on water contains draft guidelines and general principles for water allocation, which are expected to be useful in guiding the process of talks, arbitration and adjudication for inter-State disputes. Solutions have to be reached at three levels—political, administrative and technical. There are precedents in the country indicating that most of the disputes can be resolved through a political process. The Damodar Valley Corporation shows how good planning and political will can solve such disputes.

Problems can also be solved among countries through the political process. For example, India has had a long-standing dispute with Bangladesh regarding sharing of Ganga waters. The construction of the Farakka barrage was a cause of great concern to Bangladesh, especially during

the dry season from January to May every year. During this season, the flow into Bangladesh would drop to 55,000 cusecs below Farakka. In 1996, doors were opened for negotiations when the then Foreign Minister I.K. Gujral visited Bangladesh. A Ganga water sharing pact was signed on December 12, 1996. The countries agreed that each country would receive 35,000 cusecs of water in alternate 10-day periods during the period March 1 to May 10. Any differences would be referred to the Indo-Bangla Joint Rivers Commission. The 30-year agreement, signed by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her visit to India, would be reviewed at five-year intervals. This has been a successful resolution to a long-standing dispute.

A similar dispute was settled between Punjab and Haryana. In an award regarded as just and equitable, the Eradi panel allocated 5 MAF (Million Acre Feet) of Ravi-Beas waters to Punjab and 3.83 MAF to Haryana on the criteria of equitable apportionment. The Eradi panel was constituted on April 2, 1986 and gave its report on May 20, 1987.

Cauvery dispute

EVERY year the Cauvery dispute reaches its seasonal flashpoint. The dispute is more than a century old. In 1892 the British forced an agreement which made it obligatory for the princely State of Mysore to obtain prior permission of Madras before taking up any irrigation work. In 1924 a pact was signed between Mysore and Madras, providing for long-term irrigation programmes in the Cauvery basin, enabling Mysore to build the Krishnarajasagar dam and Madras the Mettur dam. The 1924 agreement had a span of 50 years and expired in 1974.

In 1974, when the agreement came up for renewal, Karnataka has been

demanding a bigger share, but Tamil Nadu can ill afford to reduce its share. The area irrigated in Kerala is small but since 20 per cent of Cauvery water comes from its catchment area, it wants distribution to be on the basis of the contribution of the States to the rivers' total resources. Efforts to find a solution have not been successful. The 1991 interim award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal directed Karnataka to release 205 TMC ft of water every year to Tamil Nadu. This triggered violence in many parts of Karnataka. It has now become an emotional issue, with people willing to take to violence and rioting if their needs are not met.

The violence forced the Karnataka government to nullify the notification. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha went on a fast, demanding implementation of the award. She ended her fast with the assurance from the Centre that a monitoring committee would be set up. In 1996-97, talks were held among the Chief Ministers of the three States but failed to reach a solution. The Supreme Court asked the Centre to formulate a draft scheme to set up a Cauvery River Water Authority.

On August 7, 1998, with the intervention of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Centre notified a scheme for the implementation of the interim award of the Cauvery Water Tribunal. The upper riparian State, Karnataka was to release 205 TMC ft water to Tamil Nadu in a water year (June to May). The order also provided for the constitution of a Cauvery River Authority with the Prime Minister as its chairperson and the Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry as its members. A Monitoring Committee would assist the Authority to take important decisions, help collect information and data and monitor the implementation of the decisions of the Authority. The litigation between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka ended on August 17, 1998, when the Supreme Court disposed Tamil Nadu's suit in view of the scheme framed by the Centre. This was, however, not a permanent solution to the long-standing problem.

In September 1999, the dispute flared up again. There was a crisis in Tamil Nadu when the water level in the Cauvery delta region sharply came down. The State government complained that standing kuruva crops would be badly hit if the water was not released by Karnataka as per the interim award. Inflow into the Mettur dam had slowed down, adding to the woes of the Tamil farmers. Failure of the rains had posed problems for Karnataka as well. An emergency meeting of the monitoring committee was held on September 24, 1999 but failed to bring relief as Karnataka turned down the recommendation to release additional water. A stalemate was reached and it seemed that another confrontation was building up. The battle went on, but relief came in the form of rain-clouds. The delta districts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam were drenched and saved the kuruva and samba crops. The crisis was thus dissipated.

This year the rains at the last moment saved the controversy from boiling over. But it is evident that a long-term solution must be found.

Other disputes

THERE are other vexing problems as well. The Almatti dam on Krishna involves Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Karnataka wanted to raise the height of the dam from 500 to 524 metres which would allow it to use the additional water stored. Andhra Pradesh, however, says that the height should not exceed 516 metres because the additional storage would affect its monsoon-linked cropping schedule.

The problem with the Sardar Sarovar project has also persisted. Madhya Pradesh wanted the height of the dam be lowered to 436 feet as that would reduce the number of people being displaced in the State. Gujarat, on the other hand, said that lowering of the height would limit the reservoir's capacity, denying water to large areas in Saurashtra. The Supreme Court, hearing a petition filed by Medha Patkar's *Narmada Bachao Andolan* (NBA), ruled in March, 1996, that Gujarat suspend

work till it reached an agreement with Madhya Pradesh. In February 1999, the interim ruling of the Court allowed Gujarat to resume construction. The permission to increase the height of the dam would depend on the progress made in the rehabilitation of those who were likely to be displaced.

What can be done

THERE are water disputes in many parts of India. The problem is not simply among upstream and downstream States; the construction of dams have also been shown to be environmentally destructive. In her essay, *The Greater Common Good*, Arundhati Roy points out that despite construction of more than 3,000 dams, the flood-prone area in the country has actually increased, not decreased. Irrigated area has also declined. In the US, the government is blowing up dams built years ago as they were seen to be ecologically unsound. It is evident that dams create not only problems among States but enormous problems of displacement and environment as well. With the anti-dam protests gathering steam, building of dams in future will not be without controversy. In 1995, an Environment Ministry report revealed that 87 per cent of river valley projects had failed to comply with stipulated safeguards.

The answer lies in traditional water harvesting methods. All over the country, check dams, roof-top harvesting, percolation tanks and recharge wells have solved local problems. The States which fight among each other to share the waters of the rivers of India should thus send a message to the Central government that it should look for and encourage alternative solutions and not depend only on modern water supply schemes. A beginning has already been made: in the 1999 Budget, Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha recognised the shift from big dams by announcing an initiative to develop water bodies by panchayats and local groups. A watershed development fund has been established. These are positive ways to avoid the vexatious water disputes in the country.

Role of Non-Banking Financial Companies and Their Regulation

Most of the countries in the world today are undergoing the process of liberalisation and reforms and India is no exception. For the success of any process of reforms, financial sector is one of the most important sectors needing overwhelming reforms, particularly in an economy like ours which has a high degree of State regulations and controls. Hence, at the onset of the process of reforms, financial sector reforms were accorded high priority and several measures were taken to overhaul this sector. With the opening-up of the economy and reforms introduced in the money markets, there was a spurt in the number of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) which mobilised huge volumes of deposits.

Growth and Rationale

ONE of the encouraging feature of Indian financial system is that rate of savings, both domestic as well as corporate, is quite high. Earlier, the options before the people who wanted to save were in the shape of commercial banks, UTI, various schemes of small savings and, to some extent, investment in stocks and shares. Mid-seventies witnessed growth of some NBFCs, mainly as chit-fund companies and later, some of these companies, and banks introduced mutual funds, offering much higher returns than the other available alternatives. Gradually, during the early nineties, these companies captured a large chunk of total deposits. At the same time, the existing financial institutions also grew rapidly. With the growth of consumerism, financing and leasing activities of many NBFC have risen phenomenally.

Upto mid-seventies, the total number of NBFCs was around 4000, rising to 7063 in 1981. The decade of eighties witnessed rapid growth, with their number increasing by about 3.5 times to 25085 in 1991. This number crossed 40,000 in 1996.

In terms of their size and deposits, the distribution, however, was skewed with many NBFCs having operations at low key, while a few others were giants of the industry. Further, in 1981, the share of NBFCs in the total deposits was relatively low—only 4 per cent of the total bank deposits. This percentage rose significantly to 10 per cent in 1991-92 and were estimated to be about 17 per cent by 1996. Main reasons for this impressive growth were the higher rates of interest, multiplicity of schemes and better delivery system adopted by the NBFCs.

Rationale behind the existence of NBFCs is not difficult to seek. NBFCs have the potential of meeting the diverse financial needs of a developing economy. The accumulation of capital by the entire financial sector is important for the society and its growth and development. The productive sectors of the economy generally grow with sizeable quantum of sale. In a country like ours, this is even more important. An efficient financial system provides easier solutions for more complex financial transactions. Credit needs of the society are required to be met in such a way that the needs of all the sectors are effectively catered to. Further, the investors, who can afford to accept lesser security for their deposits and are keen on higher return, can look forward to NBFCs for this purpose. The sources and implications of systematic risks, however, need to be defined clearly.

In its first report, Narasimhan Committee in 1991 had accepted the co-existence of the NBFCs in the financial system, alongwith the banks and other financial institutions. The Committee also recommended determination of certain prudential norms to regulate the functioning of these companies. The Government had also appointed one Committee to make in-depth study of the

role of NBFCs. Named as Shah Committee, this Committee suggested certain measures to ensure healthy growth of these companies. Main emphasis of the report was to shift the focus from the liability to the asset management, so that the interests of the investors were watched, on the one hand, and the NBFC also earned good profits, on the other. The measures suggested also included regulatory framework to ensure solvency of these companies, as well as the safety of the investors.

Regulatory Framework

BEING the regulatory authority for the entire financial system, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued several instructions to regulate these companies. The instructions were aimed at attaining a gradual shift to a more regulated and controlled regime, while ensuring the freedom of their functioning also. As a result, even when the RBI was issuing several guidelines, some of the NBFCs were exposed due to their poor asset management, allurements of unduly high interest rate, inefficient portfolio management and their inability to keep the deposits growing rapidly. The later part of nineties witnessed fall of many NBFCs after their inability to repay the deposits alongwith interest on the due date. In many cases, the liabilities are much higher than their assets. In some cases the promoters of the financial companies have gone underground with the apprehension of criminal action. Millions of investors and depositors are feeling cheated at the hands of NBFCs. Main reason for this was the lack of proper regulation of these companies by the government and utter lack of uniform policies and regulations governing their operations.

It would, however, be wrong to presume that there was no regulatory

framework whatsoever. Some of the recommendations of Shah Committee were implemented, as the government had decided to regulate these companies in phases. The RBI, in 1993, had brought within the definition of "deposit" inter-corporate loans and borrowings by private limited NBFCs. Further, medium and large NBFCs having net owned funds of Rs 50 lakh or more, are required to get themselves registered with the RBI. Later, in 1994, the Reserve Bank formed prudential norms for registered NBFCs, prescribing their accounting standards, norms for income recognition, capital adequacy, concentration of credit-investment and provisioning. Such companies are also required to get themselves rated by one of the recognised rating agencies, at least once in a year. Prescribed capital adequacy required to be achieved by them was 6 per cent of their risk-weighted assets. The norm of 8 per cent was required to be achieved upto the end of 1995-96.

A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) was nominated to enquire into the securities scam, which in its report suggested that the existing legislative framework was inadequate in many areas. On the recommendations of the JPC, the RBI proposed certain changes, including compulsory registration, building up of reserves, enforcement of repayments of deposits on time, prescription of minimum capital, etc. These companies are also required to designate their bankers. Mr C. Rangarajan, a former Governor of the RBI, has recommended a two-fold regulatory framework for NBFCs, including (a) an appropriate legal structure to deal specially with property rights, bankruptcy law, disclosure of accounting information and a mechanism for the enforcement of a contractual legal obligations, and (b) prudential guidelines and a surveillance mechanism against a possible systemic failure.

Future Role

DESPITE the regulatory measures already taken and enforced, the past two years have witnessed many big NBFCs crumbling. Allured by their tall

promises and high return promises, majority of the investors in these companies today feel cheated. Some erstwhile big groups like Kuber, JVG and Swarnbhumii are facing a rough weather and a few are on the verge of bankruptcy. Some financially strong ones like Golden Forests are also facing financial strain as the inflow of deposits has been restricted. A large number of investors are feeling let down, as the liquidation of the closed companies may take years and the repayment at the end of the process may be even less than the principal amount.

The turn of events during the past about two years has exposed the chinks in the armour of NBFCs, as well as the regulatory framework enforced by the government. The regulations of the RBI have been found wanting in many respects. Firstly, the regulatory system failed miserably to prevent these companies from getting into unhealthy competition of increasing deposit rates beyond the feasible limits, resulting in accumulation of huge repayment commitments, which were not possible to be honoured. Further, the regulations have failed utterly to protect the investors, particularly the smaller ones, from getting misled by unrealistic premises. Further, the practices of false promises were not covered adequately by the statute, as a result of which there was no check on misleading advertisements, luring schemes and duping acts of the NBFCs. The regulatory framework did not prescribe uniform practices and schemes, as well as the limits of lending and borrowing interest rates.

• Today, when the faith of the general public on the credibility of these companies is at the lowest ebb, it would be wrong to presume that it is the end of the road for them. Proliferation of financial system is the indicator of the strength of any economy. A financial system would be able to reach each and every segment of creditors and depositors if the NBFCs and leasing companies supplement the banking system, LIC, UTI and other financial institutions. Since the process of reforms and liberalisation is irreversible, a few set-backs to NBFCs in the beginning

should not be taken as their complete failure. In fact, lesson must be learnt from these failures and regulations framed in such a manner that similar situations are not allowed to take place again. Rather than harping on the failures, efforts should be made to exploit their positive points so that varied needs of the financial system at every level are met adequately.

Certain specific steps are required to be taken. In India, we follow the administered structure of interest rates and within the limits of these rates, prescribed by the RBI, the financial institutions are required to operate. NBFCs have been offering much higher interest rates and much lower lending rates than the prescribed ones. In fact, the RBI may issue separate set of limits in both the cases for the NBFCs so that unhealthy competition and feared malpractices may be done away with. Further, the NBFCs have their operations almost akin to those of commercial banks. It would be appropriate if such companies are also asked to set up a private bank each. But well-defined guidelines are required to be issued before this step is taken, to ensure that a NBFC-bank combination may not result in by-passing some legal requirements.

We are about to enter an era of free market forces. The era of State regulation is at its last leg. Sooner or later, the need for government regulation and control would be reduced to the minimum. But that would happen when the investor is fully aware of pros and cons of all the investments and is capable enough to see through the cheap gimmicks as well as false promises offered by any one. But till that happens, the RBI has to show way by working out a comprehensive regulatory framework, which would ensure smooth functioning of these companies. It should be so designed that when it is withdrawn, the regulations continue to be accepted as the unwritten and acceptable code for all these companies. • It would be retrograde to impose unreasonable restrictions on the growth of NBFCs and it would be pragmatic to allow them to grow under a well-defined regulatory regime, ensuring adequate protection to the investors.

Model Paragraphs

"One who sleeps too much in summer shall have to weep in winter."

—*Japanese Proverb*

Human life, as we all know, comprises four seasons (Keats) and seven stages (Shakespeare). Each season is known for its telling traits but summer and winter—youth and old age—are not only different in temper and tone but also in perceptions and proclivities. If youth (summer) stands for exploration, exploitation and excellence, old age (winter) means, for all intents and purposes, a period of decay and decadence. The one who spends the summer of life in day-dreaming or by building castles in the air is doomed to shed many a copious tear in winter that is inescapable under all circumstance. Those who waste their talents and energies in over-indulgence, rue over their follies when winter overtakes them and renders them cripple or incapacitated. No amount of weeping or self-pity softens the sting of winter which shows itself in wrinkles and weary-limbs. Life is neither a bed of roses nor a sweet song.

"Men can acquire knowledge but not wisdom."

—*Spanish Proverb*

Men can acquire knowledge and become knowledgeable, but to become a wise person, there is very little external support and sustenance. If knowledge flows from information, reading and serious study, wisdom is an innate gift of God that can neither be acquired nor borrowed. It is a common belief that at the feet of the wise one can find answers to one's queries, but cannot accomplish

the inner strength that wisdom provides to the sage or the learned and the philosopher. Wisdom is a self-propelling property that none can steal from the wise one. It is an asset that comforts and consoles in the trying and tormenting moments of life. Both knowledge and wisdom are poles apart. The sources of knowledge can be found in various ways, but as far as wisdom is concerned, it is a quest that seldom reaches its end by wishing or watching. Knowledge is an acquisition that can command price in the market whereas wisdom is a flavour and fragrance that has enormous value but no price-tag.

"Never despise a foe or believe implicitly a friend."

—*Nakula Jataka*

Nothing in life should be done without giving cool consideration to the consequences that our thoughtless actions may bring in their trail. In fact, many perceptions that appear so appealing and august on their face value may not be so on closer examination. An enemy who arouses in us the feeling of aversion may prove to be our best friend in disguise. Since an enemy keeps us on our toes and does not allow us to become complacent, he helps us indirectly to be alert and astute. On the other hand, a friend who is considered most steadfast and helpful in times of trial and tribulation, may just back out in need and leave us in the lurch. The advice that one shouldn't blindly hate a foe and effortlessly or naturally believe a friend, carries weight and wisdom of the highest order. The axiom 'a wise foe is better than a foolish friend' carries convictions during the course

of our existence when we are face to face with many a sordid situation. Just as discretion is the best form of valour and virtue, in the same vein, indiscriminate scorn for a foe and blind faith in a friend, exhibit both our immaturity and short-sightedness. We should always keep our minds open to the on-going events in life.

"Winners don't do different things; they do things differently."

The mediocre follows the beaten track whereas the meritorious ones carve a niche for themselves and leave the marks of their footprints on the moving sands of time. In the struggle of life, it is imperative to live by one's sweat and hard labour. A majority of human beings engage themselves in different pursuits and professions but it is only the real winners who do things differently and make a mark of their personality—perception, practice and preference for the cherished goal in an entirely different manner. The successful ones are those who prefer to conceive and execute ideas in a way that is markedly different and distinctive from the commonplace. Human history is replete with examples of such persons as achieved scintillating successes in life by pursuing paths and passions that were not only different in essence and essentials, but also hazardous and adventurous. In almost every walk of life it is the original and ingenuous approach and attitude that makes the winner. Men of destiny have always been men with a different outlook. Such successful men always look beyond their nose and go in for those means and methods that enable them to do things differently and diligently.

Should Subsidies be Abolished?

Subsidies, or money paid by the government to help a particular industry or cause, consume a large part of government revenue. As the fiscal deficit spins out of control, there is a chorus among economists that they should be abolished. This argument ignores the fact that removal of subsidies may hurt some sections of the poor, who are dependent on them for affordable prices of essential items. But some subsidies, such as those to encourage art and culture, serve no purpose and may need to be abolished. In the debate this month, we discuss the question whether subsidies should be abolished and present both sides of the argument.

Mr A A subsidy is a potent weapon in the hands of the government to control prices. If the price of a commodity is considered high, the government pays part of the cost to the supplier and ensures that those goods are available at cheap prices. The Central and State governments provide food subsidy in the hope that cheaper food will be available to the poor.

Subsidies are also used to encourage what the government thinks should be encouraged. There are subsidies on irrigation, higher education, sports, fertiliser, railways, art and culture. While these are noble objectives, they consume large sums of money that the government can ill afford, especially now when there is a fiscal crisis. Public debt has touched an all-time high. There is little doubt that we cannot afford the luxury of subsidies now. It is also felt that the money provided by the government does not reach the population that it was intended for: usually the rich corner the benefits of subsidies. The poor are, in any case, left to fend for themselves.

Mr B I agree that the poor must be looked after, but at what cost? If we look at the figures of the government, we find that subsidies consume large amounts of money. In 1994-95, the Central and State governments spent Rs 93,993 crore on non-merit subsidies alone. This amounted to 10.71 per cent of GDP. The subsidy on higher education, sports, art and culture is Rs 11,000 crore and that can well be considered as money down the drain. Only private sponsorships have helped sport and culture. Then, there is a huge Rs 3,200 crore subsidy on water supply and sanitation, but the conditions in cities and villages is deplorable. Another Rs 12,000 crore were given by States as irrigation subsidy in 1994-95, but only the rich farmers could benefit from this. The point in all this is that subsidies have not served any purpose at all. They have become tools in the hands of politicians to manipulate things for votes. If this huge amount is saved, much of the deficit could be wiped out.

Mr C You have given some important figures regarding subsidies. But you seem to forget that the subsidies do serve some purpose. They help large parts of the population who may not otherwise be able to afford the goods and services. Take higher education. If the subsidy is removed, the fee in colleges and universities would make them out of reach of many people. Similarly, food subsidy is provided so that poor families—often below poverty line—can get affordable foodgrains. Remove the subsidy and people will have nowhere to go. In your enthusiasm to control the fiscal deficit,

you want to push a large population further into despair. I am sure there are other ways of controlling deficit than by doing something which would bring great hardship: remember that the government has a social objective too and must look after the poor.

Mr D Subsidies imply that the government controls the market price of certain things indirectly. Rather than interfering with market forces, should it not implement schemes that benefit the poor directly? Instead of the food subsidy it could announce schemes in which the poor can be given free rations. Similarly, instead of providing a subsidy on higher education, scholarships can be provided to deserving students. In this way the rich will pay the price that they can afford while the deserving and meritorious students will feel encouraged. By artificially controlling prices we are introducing a great deal of mediocrity and demeaning public institutions. Take a look at our universities: because of the subsidised fees, a lot of students take admission who have no interest in studies. They spend time in politicking and goondaism. Reputed universities have, thus, been reduced to being fish-markets. I, therefore, feel that programmes should be introduced that help the target population directly rather than meddling with market prices and thus causing erosion in public institutions.

Mr E I accept your arguments about the subsidy on higher education as it has resulted in great harm in educational institutes. But this cannot be a general argument. There are so many subsidies which have resulted in

benefits. You have mentioned the irrigation subsidy. There is also the fertiliser subsidy. Maybe they do benefit some rich farmers. But have you ever considered that our agriculture is growing because of such policies? Today we are self-sufficient in foodgrains because of policies that have helped the farming sector directly or indirectly. Similarly, people can get affordable kerosene and other goods because of subsidies. I feel that rather than remove subsidies that have done so much good for the country, we should try to look at alternative methods of controlling deficits. For example, a large part of government spending goes in salaries, that is, in feeding the army of *babus* who do nothing but create problems for others. Why not reduce the bureaucracy? Stupid ministries should be abolished. Consider a ministry that is supposed to look after youth affairs. I cannot imagine what work it would be doing. Or the ministry of sports. These things should be entrusted to universities or colleges. In any case, universities are encouraging sports on their own. My point is that there is a lot of wasteful expenditure incurred by the government. Let us try to reduce that in order to cut down on deficit rather than interfere with subsidies, which have done much good to the country, indirectly.

Mr A You have a point that the government should reduce wasteful expenditure. That is essential if the country is to get ahead. But a major chunk of wasteful expenditure is subsidies. We have seen that they may be misused and also that they result in deterioration of institutions. Frankly, I see no reason why the government should waste time in fighting market forces. For example, even if a subsidy is given, there is no way to see that goods are actually being supplied at subsidised prices. Have you seen the condition of the Public Distribution System (PDS) which is supposed to supply cheap rations? Either the goods are not

available or they are finished before they arrive. These shops are a joke on the poor as they have to waste countless hours waiting for the goods to arrive. What good do they do? Instead, the private shops can provide the goods at normal prices much more efficiently. Instead of subsidies, won't it be better if schemes are implemented where people get the means of increasing their incomes? Subsidies give rise to corruption and put undue power in the hands of the politician, and hence must be curtailed.

Mr B After listening to your arguments, I feel that some subsidies definitely need to be abolished. But we should be selective. Some of them help the development of the country indirectly and thus need to be continued. Others, like the one on higher education, should certainly be abolished. Similarly, it is difficult to see what art and culture has been encouraged through subsidy, except perhaps paying the wives of IAS officers who may think of themselves as artists and are able to corner government funds. These things are ridiculous and the sooner they are abolished, the better it would be. Others, like subsidies on agriculture, should be considered. I am against the State meddling in market mechanisms, but I feel we should have a selective approach. The Central budget has a figure of about Rs 24,000 crore as subsidies on food, fertiliser, railways and others. There is scope to reduce this figure. There is no doubt that removing subsidies will result in great savings, but that should not be the primary objective. If savings are needed, the government should at the same time cut down its wasteful expenditure.

Mr C Tough times call for tough actions. We are passing through tough times now. The debt burden of the Centre and States is now Rs 4,41,000 crore. A sum of Rs 75,000 crore had to be allocated for interest payments alone.

Of every rupee that the government borrows, 94 paise go in debt servicing. Considering this, should we continue with the expenditure on subsidies? It is all very well to say that the government should reduce its wasteful expenditure, but there are no signs of that happening. The BJP government has brought in a huge, jumbo sized ministry, which will add to expenses. We are left only with one choice—to reduce other things. Otherwise we will be caught in a trap from which it will be difficult to come out. You can say it is wrong that the poor should pay for the bad habits of the politicians, but then what other option do we have? To save the country, we may have few options left.

Mr D The picture is certainly gloomy on the debt front. That is why economists are advising the government to reduce expenditure on subsidies. But we must not forget that subsidies do serve a purpose. We need to reduce them, but in the absence of social security systems, we should do this carefully and selectively. Otherwise there would be great hardship on the people who depend on them for affordable food and fertiliser. A point was also made about agricultural subsidies. The fact that agriculture remains to be the backbone of India should make us careful of messing around with this sector. True, some rich farmers may be taking benefit of the subsidies, but that is a small price to pay for the food security that we have today. At the same time, subsidies on sports, culture and higher education must be removed without any further delay. I think the group agrees that subsidies should be gradually reduced but, on the other hand, other social security systems be installed so that hardship to the people is avoided.

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Civil Services Examination—II

Success Plan for Mains

In our last issue we had given the plan of the Civil Services Preliminary and Mains Exam, the subjects combinations and the eligibility criteria. This time we answer more of your Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) with respect to the Mains exam. In this feature we discuss some common queries regarding choice of subjects and give a success plan, together with readings that you should be doing. This feature gives a success plan and describes what successful aspirants have done. Follow these steps if you are an IAS aspirant and want to achieve your target!

Preparations for the Civil Services Mains Exam should start along with those of Preliminary exam. This is because there is much common ground for study and there is little time for the mains exam if one waits for the results of the Preliminaries. It is a long haul and preparations should be done with persistence, over nine months to an year.

Choice of subjects

One of the first questions that has to be answered is the choice of subjects. Here the choice should not only be with regard to your interests but also with regard to the study material available. It has been found that even science and engineering students take up subjects like history, sociology, anthropology, geography, political science, psychology and public administration because there is a huge amount of study material available, which covers the entire syllabus. Even if your branch of study is different, it is advisable to keep in touch with one of these subjects which will help you when you start preparations. Start collecting books and readings once you have made your choice.

The next step is to make a time-bound study plan, which would include not only studying the subject but improvement of writing expression. This is done by writing

down the answers to the questions asked in previous years' papers. Show these answers to someone you know, like a teacher in your college or university, parents or friends. The study should be done according to the syllabus and also in the same chronological order as given in the syllabus.

The following topics need coverage for General Studies

- i) Current Affairs—National and International
- ii) Indian Polity
- iii) Indian Economy
- iv) Geography of India
- v) Science and Technology
- vi) History of India and Freedom Movement
- vii) Study of thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Rabindranath Tagore
- viii) Statistics and General Mathematics Ability

To study current affairs, it is essential to read one national newspaper and **THE COMPETITION MASTER**. When you are studying the round up of national and international affairs, efforts should not be merely taking up the information but also to understand the issues involved. Go into the background of events. For example, the recent Lok Sabha elections threw up many issues. Get to know these issues and be clear about them so that you can answer questions on them.

Reading List

With regard to other topics, the books published by the NCERT are the best source of study. Take up the text-books for classes IX, X, XI and XII. However, just reading these books will not serve the purpose. What is essential is that the person taking up self-study must pick up past question papers and write down the answers to questions asked therein. A practice in writing is what is required to

attempt the paper. Many students make the mistake of studying for hours but have no practice in writing down the answers, which costs heavily during the exam. The skill required is that of organising the arguments and making a coherent answer from the diverse material. One more thing that must be kept in mind is that the answers must be a little different from others and must have some extra bit that is missed out by others. This is not difficult if one has understood the issue in depth.

One important aspect of the Civil Services Mains Exam is that the questions do not ask for mere information as a reply, but seek analysis backed with arguments from the candidates. Usually, one gets the impression that one knows everything but thoughts do not flow out naturally as one puts pen to paper. Hence, writing down the answers is an important aspect of the preparation. Another thing is that the candidate must carefully read the questions in order to make out what the examiner is asking. Having done that, it is important to organise one's thoughts before writing and the sequence of the answer should be from the most important/potent aspect to less important aspects.

If you do not have someone to show your answers, keep them away and after a gap of some time, read them again. You will discover many mistakes, which earlier you could not. Analyse the answers in order to improve them. This exercise of re-analysis of answers improves the ability to be precise. One of the important requirements of the Mains exam is that the answers should be crisp and to-the-point.

Optional subjects

While studying for the optional subjects, keep in mind that there is no scope for selective studies in the Civil

Services Examination. The whole syllabus must be completely and thoroughly covered. Invariably, some candidates organise their studies in a manner that they study one subject thoroughly, with reduced emphasis on their second subject. It is imperative that equal stress be given to both the subjects you have chosen.

It is also important to remember that the level of questions asked is of the Masters level examination. The questions have an added spin in order to bring out the grasp of the candidate with regard to the basic concepts of the subject. Hence, if you choose subjects in which you do not have a basic grounding, it would be advisable to start from simple books. After getting the grasp of the basic concepts, start with higher level study material. Here again, reflections on basic concepts and their application in real life is important. For best preparation and a success plan, it is suggested that the candidate make a habit of beginning his study by writing answers to three questions each day, one each from General Studies and two from optional subjects. Questions should be chosen from previous years' papers and the answer writing should be preceded by study on the subject.

Most candidates do not have problems with regard to English and Hindi examinations and are able to qualify in them easily. However, it is important to have a good working knowledge of the two languages. In order to improve this skill, pick up a General Studies book and translate it into the language in which you are weak. For instance, if you are weak in Hindi, try translating important essays on current affairs into Hindi which will not only improve fluency but also the general knowledge. Another way is to write letters to friends in the language that one is weak in.

Studying for General Studies

Giving a detailed description of the optional subjects is not feasible here but we give here some suggested readings for the General Studies paper. Students should remember that this list is not exhaustive and they should choose the

books themselves based on recommendations of previous successful students, teachers and guides, etc. We are giving a list as a general requirement. NCERT, IGNOU booklets and National Book Trust (NBT) publications are quite helpful. For the Preliminary paper, study the following books:

History: NCERT books of class XI and XII, *Freedom Struggle* (published by National Book Trust).

Geography: Class XII books of Geography (NCERT), a good atlas

Indian Polity: Introduction to the Indian Constitution.

Indian Economy: NCERT and other books on Evolution of the Indian Economy

General Science: NCERT books on science, a science magazine or newspaper supplements on science.

Current Events: A national newspaper, *THE COMPETITION MASTER*, newsmagazines

General Mental Ability: Do the Quantitative Aptitude published in *THE COMPETITION MASTER*, past test papers.

For the main examination, the study should be done in more detail. In addition to the above readings, the following are suggested as well:

History: India's Struggle for Independence, IGNOU publications on Modern India.

Indian Culture: Art and culture portions of history books, India Yearbook (culture chapter), Encyclopaedia on Indian Culture, Gazetteer of India, books on culture published by Publications Division and National Book Trust.

Current Affairs: A national newspaper, *THE COMPETITION MASTER*, current affairs programmes on Doordarshan, newsmagazines.

Statistics: Class XI NCERT book on Statistics.

Indian Polity: Introduction to the Constitution, Parliament.

Indian Geography: NCERT books on Indian Geography.

Indian Economy: NCERT and other books on Indian Economy, financial newspapers, *THE COMPETITION MASTER* carries regular analysis of the Indian Economy.

Science: A science magazine,

supplements in newspapers.

Interview

The final stage is that of interview. There are cases where students clear the preliminary and the mains but fail at the last stage. The secret is to start for preparations for the interview along with the written test. Develop the habit of debating and discussing issues with friends or parents. Listen to the current affairs programmes and learn to organise thoughts the way the participants do. Develop interests and hobbies so that you are able to answer convincingly. Understand the current affairs and the issues behind the events. Remember that the interview is not a cross examination but a natural but purposeful conversation. It is an opportunity to reveal the mental qualities of a candidate.

The interview is not a test of specialised knowledge, as that has already been tested in written examination. The idea is to see the social traits of a person and his personality as suited to a career in the Civil Services. If a person gives the impression of being a bookworm, the chances of his selection are reduced. The candidate must exhibit an intelligent interest in events happening around him so that he appears to be a complete personality.

Finally, there is a very frequently asked question about whether a candidate should join a coaching centre and if so, which one. Coaching centres are helpful in the sense that they develop a discipline of attending regular classes. An instructor may be available who can give an opinion about the answers written by a candidate. At the same time, the candidate will meet like-minded people with whom he can develop the habit of debating and discussion. However, the coaching centre must be chosen with care: the instructor must be erudite enough to be able to guide students. If he is not well-read, the chances of guiding others would be diminished.

It must also be remembered that preparation for the optional subjects must be done on one's own, as it is unlikely that any coaching centre would be able to do justice to all the subjects.

Descriptive Questions

Oceans going dry

Q. If the oceans of the globe go dry, what would happen? Give three important consequences that would follow the most unnatural development.

Ans. Oceans, which cover more than two third of the global surface, are not only the most gracious gifts of God but are also the most crucial to human well-being. The question 'what would happen if all the oceans of the globe go dry' should send chill down the spine because the very thought is both nagging and nightmarish. Once the misfortune—rather the catastrophic calamity—overtakes all living things, flora and fauna, the shape of the globe would become too distorted to be fully described in words. A little aberration here and there in the natural scheme of things may be rectified, but as far as the crude and cruel consequences of the 'dried up oceans' are concerned, the less said the better.

The first and foremost fall-out of the 'oceans becoming dry' will be felt on environment, ecology, rain-fall and snow-covered mountains. Since oceans are the most potent source of cloud-formation, their going dry will mean very little cloud formation which in return would surely and adversely affect rainfall and snowing. Once those adverse consequences begin to show their ugly face, the very survival of agriculture, horticulture and other forms of land-cum-water related productive activities will be jeopardised. With scanty rain-cum-snowfall, rivers, ponds, tanks, lakes and the like will face a fearful fate.

The citadels of civilisation that have prospered and perpetuated themselves on the sea coasts will lose much of their historical strength and relevance. All types of commercial activities supported and sustained by sea waves, steamers, ships, etc

will come to a halt, throwing the economy out of gear and human beings out of their jobs. Not only the economy of a country that boasts of its long sea-coasts and tourist resorts on islands, but also the climatic conditions will undergo changes for the worst once the oceans go dry. The naval wings of armed forces of the concerned countries will have to be wound up or disbanded, rendering thousands of naval cadets, officers and other ranks redundant and jobless, besides turning war-ships, submarines, *et al* simply show-pieces or articles of a museum.

With the 'oceans going dry' millions of poor people all over the world will be deprived of inexpensive protein provided by the sea-fish. Oceans that have been emerging as a repository of valuable metals and wonder drugs will be lost to mankind. To sum up: Oceans are a source of food, commerce, medicine and recreation. They shape our weather and link us to other nations. In the 21st century we will look increasingly to the oceans to meet our every-day needs.

Steps against child-abuse

Q. Suggest three effective measures to curb/control 'child-abuse' in India. Elucidate or substantiate how the steps suggested by you would be effective in deed!

Ans. The scourge of 'child abuse' in India has assumed diabolic dimensions and the horrific description of 'child abuse' cases, both within the four walls of our homes as well as in open public places like railway stations, bus stands, public parks and the like, should be enough to shock and shame any civilised society. In the past, when some stray incidents of 'child abuse' appeared in the press, they were dismissed as 'yellow or sensational journalism', out to tarnish the

image of Indian society that was considered to be the 'paragon of time-tested virtues and values'. But the reality, as we see and read about daily belies all our claims. Unless we take the following measures to deal with the growing problem of 'child abuse', especially the 'female child abuse', the stigma will not easily disappear.

The axiom 'prevention is better than cure' should be scrupulously practised. Vigilance on the part of parents and awareness among children about their vulnerability could be the first step in curbing the growing menace. Though it goes against our culture, a cautious attitude towards relatives and acquaintances needs to be inculcated in children.

Public places should be well guarded and supervised by the authorities concerned. Gullible street children who are easily enticed by the 'bully and their agents' deserve special attention so that the former do not fall an easy prey to the tricks of the latter. Relief and rehabilitation of children abandoned by their parents due to poverty or to other compulsive conditions, should be provided by the welfare departments of State governments. Voluntary organisations can play a pivotal role in alleviating the sufferings of 'tortured and traumatised children' at the hands of social sharks and vultures.

Laws dealing with 'child abuse', bonded labour, immoral traffic and the like should be enforced both in letter and spirit. The legal proceedings against the culprits, criminals and their associates should be avoided to become tedious and tardy as far as incidents of 'child abuse' are concerned. The impression that we have too many laws for all crimes and too little application to bring to book the crooked and the culprit, should not be allowed to linger on any more.

Opinion/exit polls and elections

Q. "Exit-polls and poll surveys" influence voters and vitiate free and fair elections. In the light of this statement express your views based on past experience, knowledge and ground realities.

Ans. Predictions or projections based on opinion/exit polls may not come out as true and exact as the findings of a scientist in his laboratory. Since the conclusions drawn by a psephologist are based on the opinion of the voters selected/picked up at random from the cross sections of the society, the possibilities of the findings varying at different hands cannot be ruled out altogether. The concept and practice of psephology (study of the way in which people vote in elections) has been gaining ground in India during elections that have become quite frequent now. If the inordinately long election schedule wasn't enough, the electorate was harrassed by a surfeit of exit/opinion polls, each claiming to be more correct than the other. A relative novelty in India, exit polls and poll surveys have become media events—rather dress rehearsals for the real thing that the ballot boxes throw open when the counting actually takes place and the results start flowing in.

In the last held elections of the millennium, two questions that created both excitement and controversy were: Do exit polls influence the wavering/floating voters and thus vitiate the otherwise free and fair polls? Secondly, are the findings of such an exercise undertaken by different agencies with varying results credible? Critics of the 'opinion polls' say that such an exercise, whether voluntary or manipulated, makes a mockery of free and fair polls. Whether the Indian voter is mature or naive enough to be influenced or not, the implications of exit poll comprehensively seen, heard and understood, can not be lost sight of. Whether the outcome of the exercise proves as fallacious as it did in Tamil Nadu in 1998 and in UP and Karnataka in 1999 or as nearly accurate as in some other cases, it is none of the business of pollsters to sway the voters one way or the other. It is the job of

the political parties and their leaders to sell their programmes and policies through rhetoric or populist pronouncements.

Even after the Supreme Court refused to endorse the Election Commission's directions on the issue of Exit/Opinion Polls, the matter has not been settled as yet. In future also the paramount issue, whether a ban on exit poll would be desirable, whether it would be in the best, widest and fullest interests of India's democracy, remains open for debate and discussion.

Hard work versus slogans and sermons

Q. Some right thinking persons who have made a mark in life feel that India needs seriousness of purpose and hard work more than slogans and sermons. Substantiate the observation/statement with your views based on experience, knowledge and reading.

Ans. Not rhetoric but rigorous hard work, coupled with seriousness of purpose, is the key to success, which has become the hall mark of an individual's personal ranking, as also the talking point of a social group or community. Only such human beings, irrespective of their caste, creed or colour, can carve a noticeable niche for themselves as are highly motivated by the gospel of work over words, deeds over dithering. Endowed with enormous resources, untapped manpower and vibrant vision, if India still ranks very low on the graph or ladder of human development and dignity, the fault does not lie with our stars but with our lethargy and too much reliance upon slogans and sermons that are like empty vessels making much noise.

Human history, which is a telling testimony to man's unquenchable quest for more and more control over inimical forces of hunger, disease or disability, ignorance and exploitation, tells us all the time that nothing happens by chance. For every success or achievement, ideas are like the kick in the mind that goad us into constructive and creative action so that

tomorrow may be better than today. There is nothing as wonderful as work that produces wealth and welfare if we are driven by the forces of sincerity and seriousness of purpose.

It is not only a matter of personal success or achievement that changes the socio-economic canvas, it is also the large-term impact of such an achievement on the society at large that moulds the mores and mind-set of the people. If hard-work pays rich dividends to individuals like corporate houses, professionals of all hues, entrepreneurs, inventors and discoverers, *et al*, the message that goes across the board, especially for a vast population living or subsisting on or below the poverty, is clear and candid. No amount of breast-beating, raising of slogans or delivering of sermons will solve our perennial problems of poverty, deprivation and destitution, unless and until the majority of our manpower embarks upon the rough and tough road of hard work and seriousness of purpose.

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General Studies Scene

Q 1 Discuss the safeguards provided by the Indian Constitution to the civil servants. Also describe the term, "opportunity of being heard". What are the fundamental rights of the civil servants?

Ans A distinct feature of the parliamentary system is that while the policy formulation is done by the ministers responsible to the legislature, the execution of such policy is done by a large body of officials who have no concern with politics. These officials, called the civil servants, do not belong to any political party and are recruited permanently by following the laid down procedure. This body of the executive is permanent and provides continuity to the administration. As inherited from the British system, civil servants in India hold their office during the pleasure of the President or the Governor of the State, as the case may be, subject to certain safeguards provided. In case of certain high officials like the Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, Auditor General and the Chief Election Commissioner, special procedures laid down in Articles 124, 148, 218 and 324 are to be adopted. In case of other civil servants, the following safeguards are given in the Constitution.

(a) A civil servant cannot be dismissed or removed from service by any officer subordinate to that by whom he was appointed.

(b) The Constitution guarantees that no dismissal, removal or reduction in rank can be ordered against a civil servant by the competent authority without affording reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of charges against him. The term reasonable opportunity includes:

(i) an opportunity to deny the charges and establish his innocence, and

(ii) an opportunity to defend himself by examining himself and other witnesses in his defence and also by cross-examining the witnesses produced against him.

Hence, before any action like dismissal, removal or reduction in rank is taken by any authority against a civil servant, there should be specific charges against him; he should have an opportunity to deny those charges and defend himself; and finally, the decision should be taken by the competent authority by following the principle of natural justice. Opportunity must be given if the penalty of dismissal, removal or reduction in rank is to be imposed. There are, however, three exceptions where opportunity need not be given. These are: conviction in a criminal case, or where it is not reasonably practical to hold an inquiry, or where the President or the Governor, as the case may be, is satisfied that in the interest of the security of the State it is not expedient to hold such inquiry.

As a general principle, all the fundamental rights available to other citizens are also available to the civil servants. But at the same time, proviso to Article 309 provides to the State the power to regulate the conditions of service of civil servants. State could take steps to ensure several qualities among the civil servants and prescribe the service conditions for them. But such regulation of service condition of the civil servants to restrict their fundamental rights is valid only to the extent that such restrictions are reasonably necessary in the interest of efficiency, integrity, impartiality, discipline and other such qualities, which have a direct bearing on the service conditions of the public servants on the one hand, and on their fundamental rights on the other. A delicate balance is thus maintained while ensuring fundamental rights to the civil services. In case of military and police forces, the restrictions are much more than those on the civil servants.

Q 2 Discuss the emergence and role of new forces in the national movement after the year 1927. What was their contribution to the freedom struggle?

Ans The year 1927 marked a watershed in the national movement of India. While the Indian National Congress remained almost dormant upto the end of 1929, there were several other forces which emerged on the political scene and made their own contribution to the freedom struggle. The ideas of socialism and Marxism caught the fancy of the younger generation. Within the Congress itself, a left wing was born under the leadership of Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru and Subhash Chandra Bose. Several student unions emerged after the formation of All Bengal Conference of students, which was presided over by Nehru. The young nationalists had their own radical solutions to political, social and economic evils of the country. The Russian Revolution brought into existence several socialist and communist groups in India. Many who were disillusioned by the Gandhian ideas turned to these leftist groups. In addition to the Communist Party of India, which was formed in 1925, several workers and peasants parties were also founded in different parts of the country during late twenties. In Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, several large-scale agitations of the peasants took place in 1928. Bardoli Satyagraha of Gujarat in 1928, under the leadership of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, is an example where the peasants could get their demands accepted.

Another important force during this period was the revolutionary terrorist movement, which also began to take a socialist turn. Prior to this in 1924 and 1925, several members of this movement were arrested and were sentenced to long-term imprisonment. The other members started joining several leftist groups.

thereafter and moved away from terrorism. The Hindustan Socialist Republican Association was formed which, in an attempt to let people know about their changed political agenda, organised a harmless blast in the Central Legislative Assembly through Bhagat Singh and B.K. Dutt in 1929. They deliberately chose to get arrested and made use of the court as a forum for revolutionary propaganda.

Trial of various revolutionaries evoked sharp reactions from all over the country. Bhagat Singh, along with a few others, was tried for the assassination of Saunders. The trial of all the revolutionaries and their statements, covered widely by the press, won the sympathy of the people, particularly the younger ones. Jatin Dass, who laid down his life after 63 days of fast, attracted the attention of the entire country. Later, Chandra Shekhar Azad was killed in a shooting encounter with the Police in Allahabad.

These new trends in the nationalist movement were responsible to motivate the youth and women to join the national struggle for freedom. The government suppressed the revolutionary movement with a heavy hand. These new forces filled the vacuum created by the dormancy of the Congress during these years. But at the same hand, the repression let loose by the government attracted the attention of many, who gradually not only became part of the national mainstream, but also participated actively in the struggle for freedom. Press also played an important role by highlighting the sacrifices of the revolutionaries, on the one hand, and their statements of patriotism during their trials, on the other. Leftist movement, manifested through various agitations, also had its share in roping in a large majority of Indian, particularly the young, to the freedom struggle of the country.

Q. 3. Handicrafts and handlooms have a special place in Indian economy. Analyse their contribution to the economic development effort of the country along with their expected role in the future.

Ans. The spread of industrialisation, particularly the large-scale industries, has remained concentrated around big towns and cities for obvious reasons. The villages have, by and large, remained untouched by such industrialisation. But, traditionally handlooms and handicrafts have formed the backbone of industrial enterprise in the rural areas. From the point of view of employment generation and exports potential, these sectors have proved to be very useful for the economy. At the beginning of Eighth Five Year Plan, the handloom sector provided employment to about 80 lakh people, while the indirect employment was much higher. At the same time, the export value of handicrafts was estimated to be about Rs 14000 crore.

Both these sectors are the priority sectors and the government is trying its best to promote these areas by new programmes. In the handloom industry, the focus so far has been on cooperatisation, modernisation, design development, training and ensuring minimum earnings to the employees. The National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC)

and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) have been pioneers in this sector and with the assistance of Indian Institute of Handloom Technology, have helped the smaller societies to get strengthened by organising training programmes, publicity, expos, exhibitions, etc. But, despite some good efforts, the cooperative coverage among the handloom remains as low as 30 per cent. Weak organisation, inadequate credit, poor marketing infrastructure and bureaucratisation are some of the evils that hamper the operations of the handlooms. Powerloom sector and organised mills pose a serious threat to the very existence of handlooms. Recently, the government has decided to do away with the practice of routing the financial assistance only through the cooperatives.

Handicrafts are known to blend utility with beauty and cater to the elite as well as other classes of the society. One of the main problems faced in developing this sector is the wide spread of craftsmen over a larger area. Marketing of the handicrafts is yet another major problem. Since marketing is largely controlled by the private parties, the craftsmen get very less amounts for their products and major chunk of the sale price is eaten away by the middlemen. The potential of this sector to generate employment has also not been exploited to the full extent. Hence, there is a need to reorient the priorities and schemes in this sector. There is an urgent need to provide marketing network as well as credit facilities. The number of middlemen is also needed to be reduced. Easy and local availability of raw material, skill development and improvement and proper technical guidance are some of the areas in which handicraft sector needs assistance of the government agencies. The import policy should discourage finished handicrafts, while import of raw material should be made tariff free. The existing Design and Technical Development Centres should be strengthened to provide extensive training and technical support to the craftsmen. Institutes at national level like the National Institute of Design and National Institute of Fashion Technology have to come forward to provide modern and more desirable designs of the handicrafts.

Both these sectors have contributed immensely to the developmental effort of the country, particularly in the rural and remote areas where the spread of modern industrialisation has not reached. Generation of employment and self-employment is one of the areas in which these sectors have already contributed richly and have much larger role to play in future also. The government has to re-frame some of its policies towards these sectors so that they get strengthened and could survive the serious challenge posed by the imports and multinationals. Additional support in the form of increased credit facilities, better investment climate at the micro level, better designing, low cost designs and production technologies and state-aided and better marketing facilities would give the required fillip to these sectors, which would, in turn help in providing better employment opportunities, remove disguised unemployment as well as seasonal unemployment, and, last but not the least, improve the levels of incomes in the rural areas.

DECEMBER

India

The long array of significant events which took place during the months of December in the Indian history include Gokhale becoming an additional member of Council of Governor-General of India on December 20, 1901; Rabindranath Tagore inaugurating *Brahmacharya Ashram* in Shantiniketan on December 22, 1901; Muslim Educational Conference at Dacca resolving to form All India Muslim League on December 30, 1906; arrival of King George and Queen Mary, the first British Sovereigns, in India on December 2, 1911; the first singing of *Jan Gana Mana* at the Calcutta Session of Indian National Congress on December 27, 1911; appointment of Rowlatt Committee by Government of India to investigate into 'criminal conspiracies in view of the revolutionary movements on December 10, 1917; Government of India Act 1919 getting Royal assent on December 25, 1919; revolutionaries making a futile attempt to kill the Viceroy Lord Irwin by blowing off train with time bomb at New Delhi on December 23, 1929; passing of resolution for 'complete independence' at Lahore session of Congress on December 31, 1929; Shailendra Ghosh returning to India on December 24, 1936 after remaining in exile for 20 years; Constituent Assembly of India holding its first meeting on December 9, 1946; Indian Army liberating Goa, Daman and Diu from Portuguese on December 19, 1961; Pakistan launching attack on the Western Sector on December 3, 1971; all East Pakistani forces surrendering to India on December 16, 1971; Lok Sabha expelling Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister, from the House on December 19, 1978 and sentencing imprisonment for a term until propagation of the House; Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi

joining leaders of Greece, Sweden, Tanzania, Mexico and Argentina to receive 'Beyond War' award on December 14, 1985; Viswanathan Anand becoming the first Indian to win the Grandmaster title in chess on December 28, 1987; Lok Sabha passing bill on December 10, 1998, for re-introduction of Rs 1,000 note

Dedicatory

Henri Bacquerel, the French Physician who discovered Radioactivity through investigation of Uranium and got the Nobel Prize in 1903, was born on December 15, 1852

Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, who became Law Member of Lord Reading's Executive Council, was born on December 3, 1875 at Aligarh

Dr Rajendra Prasad, India's first President, was born on December 3, 1884 in Saran.

Mulk Raj Anand, author, novelist and critic, of the fame of *Confession of a Lover* and *Coolie*, was born on December 12, 1905

Ranbir Raj Kapoor, producer, director, actor of the fame of *Aag*, *Mera Naam Joker* and *Bobby*, was born on December 14, 1924.

International

The significant events which took place during the months of December in the international history include: Guglielmo Marconi sending first transatlantic radio signal on December 12, 1901; British, German and Italian fleets seizing Venezuelan Navy to force payment of debts on December 19, 1902; Wright brothers making aviation history with Orville becoming the first person to fly in the 'Flyer' on

December 17, 1903; Captain Ronald Amundson reaching South Pole on December 16, 1911; Reza Khan of Iran deposing last Shah of Qajar Dynasty to become Reza Shah Pahlavi on December 12, 1925; House of Commons passing without division, the Second Reading of the Indian Church Bill on December 16, 1927; beginning of the first Women's Cricket Match between Australia and England on December 28, 1934 at Brisbane; Japan bombing Pearl Harbour, Hawaii and Malaya on December 7, 1941; Hong Kong surrendering to Japan on December 25, 1941; World Bank coming into existence on December 27, 1945 with signing of Bretton Woods agreement by 28 countries; creation of UNICEF by the UN General Assembly on December 11, 1946, to provide massive emergency relief to the destitute, young victims of the World War II; the UN General Assembly adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948; UN admitting Japan on December 18, 1956; the first exhibition of a prototype of the supersonic airliner *Concorde* in Toulouse, France on December 11, 1967; Soviet Union vetoing on December 14, 1971 a US resolution calling upon India for cease-fire and withdrawal of forces, Arab guerrillas seizing 13 OPEC Ministers as hostages in Vienna on December 21, 1975; UN General Assembly adopting the legally binding Convention on 'Elimination of All Forms of Discriminations against Women' on December 18, 1979; inauguration of the first SAARC Summit at Dhaka on December 7, 1985; Mikhail Gorbachev resigning as the USSR President on December 25, 1991; opening of 13th Asian Games in Bangkok on December 6, 1998.

Business GK

1 Which famous drink, sold for the first time in 1886, was originally produced as a quick remedy for headaches?

- a) Pepsi b) Coca Cola
c) Perrier d) Carlsberg

2. Which famous actor owns the Monarch group of companies, which owns a string of hotels in Ooty?

- a) Amitabh Bachchan
b) Chunky Pandey
c) Salman Khan
d) Mithun Chakraborty

3. Name the business family which has been named in the chargesheet on Bofors as being the alleged recipients of the Rs 64 crore payoffs

- a) Hinduja
b) Singhanias
c) Birlas
d) Ambanis

4. Which brand of batteries has a logo based on the saying, "A cat has nine lives"?

- a) Duracell b) Nikkon
c) Eveready d) Excell

5. Which famous company was set up in a garage in Delhu in 1976 to design a micro computer based on an Intel 8080 microprocessor?

- a) Microsoft b) Apple
c) Wang d) HCL

6 Name the founder of the company in Q. 5:

- a) Bill Gates
b) Steve Jobs
c) Shiv Nadar
d) Leng Chui

7. Which Indian company had its logo designed by the famous designer Wolff Olins? The logo suggests fluid motion.

- a) Reliance
b) Tata
c) Mahindra & Mahindra
d) Bajaj

8. Which car advertises itself as "The Josh Machine"?

- a) Ikon b) City
c) Sienna d) Baleno

9 Who is the author of "The Future of Capitalism", the best-selling book on economics?

- a) Lester Thurow
b) Paul Samuelson
c) Amartya Sen
d) Jagdish Bhagwati

10 Pick the odd man out

- a) Arthur D. Little
b) McKinsey
c) Price Waterhouse Coopers
d) Merrill Lynch

11 Which Indian company has made a bid for Tetley Ltd, the UK-based tea giant?

- a) Reliance b) Tata
c) Lipton d) HLL

12 Which company markets the following brands Allen Solly, Louis Philippe, Van Huesen and Peter England?

- a) Reliance b) Stanrose Fabrics
c) Madura Coats d) Garden Textiles

13. Name the company founded by top Wipro executives, including Ashok Soota:

- a) Mindtree
b) Wipro Technologies
c) Professionals
d) Hughes Software

14 Which company has launched Ayurvedic Concepts, which sells ayurvedic products for the sophisticated?

- a) Dabur
b) Himalaya Drug Co
c) Revlon
d) Ranbaxy

15. Name the soap launched by HLL against Dettol soap?

- a) Breeze b) Lifebuoy Plus
c) Dove d) Savlon

16. Which company makes Dettol soap?

- a) Nirma
b) Johnson and Johnson
c) Reckitt and Coleman
d) Calcutta Chemicals

17. Which company has launched 'Wild' and 'Cool' perfumed talcum powder

packs under Elle 18, with the adline, "Be Yourself"?

- a) Coty b) Revlon
c) Lakme Lever d) Tips and Toes

18. Which airline has been ranked No. 1 in all categories in the Images 1999 survey conducted by Time magazine?

- a) Thai b) Emirates
c) SAS d) Singapore

19 Which is India's most widely read Hindi daily, according to IRS 1999?

- a) Dainik Bhaskar
b) Dainik Jagran
c) Punjab Kesri
d) Hindustan

20 Name the battery launched by BPL, which was censured for wrong advertising:

- a) Duracell b) Excell
c) Powercell d) Pluscell

21 Mentor, Voyager and Gratika are the brand names of

- a) Stationery products launched by Camlin
b) Educational CD-ROMs launched by HCL

- c) PCs launched by Wipro
d) Magazines launched by Spectrum Publications

22. What is CARE?

- a) An American voluntary organisation
b) A Credit Rating Agency
c) A PR agency for image management
d) An advertising agency

23. The Syrian Christian family of Mammen Mapillai is the founder of which of the following well known Indian company?

- a) Apollo b) TVS
c) MRF d) MMG

24. The motto of which film company was "More stars than there are in heaven"?

- a) 20th Century Fox
b) MGM
c) Playboy
d) Paramount

25. The software for the first entirely new English dictionary in the last 30 years has been released. Which company has

developed it?

- a) Microsoft b) Britannica
c) Oxford d) Cambridge

26. "Work expands to fill the time available for its completion." Name the person who gave this law.

- a) Murphy b) Toffler
c) Drucker d) Parkinson

27. Which of the following is not a financial institution?

- a) ICICI b) LIC
c) IIPA d) IDBI

28. Fiscal policy means:

- a) credit policy
b) planning policy
c) taxation policy
d) public debt policy

29. Ferozabad in UP is famous for:

- a) leather industry
b) glass industry
d) rubber industry
d) cotton industry

30. National income is the:

a) net national product at market prices

b) net national product at factor cost

c) net domestic product at market prices

d) net domestic product at factor cost

31. Peter England is the brand name of:

- a) shirts b) cigarettes
c) shoes d) carpets

32. VIP suitcases are manufactured by which of the following companies?

- a) Asian Plastics
b) Aristocrat luggage
c) Samsonite
d) Blow Plast

33. Who has written the book, "Business at the Speed of Thought"?

- a) Gita Piramal b) Bill Gates
c) Bill Clinton d) Rahul Bajaj

34. Who, among the following, has been named Businessman of the Century by Fortune magazine?

- a) Henry Luce
b) Jack Welch
c) Matsushita
d) Henry Ford

35. Which is India's top newspaper in terms of circulation, according to NRS '99?

- a) Mathrubhumi
b) Malayala Manorama
c) Daily Thanthi

d) Dainik Bhaskar

36. Why was "Melissa" in the news recently?

a) it was the name of a hurricane which hit the east coast of USA

b) it is the name of a film based on the life of Princess Diana

c) it is the name of the Internet model made by software experts

d) it is the name of a computer virus which hit computers recently

37. Name the first Indian firm to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)?

- a) Infosys b) Lucent Infotech
c) ICICI d) IDBI

38. Who has taken over as the new managing director of Maruti Udyog in August, '99?

- a) G. Tokiamura
b) RSSLN Bhaskaruddu
c) Jagdish Khattar
d) Arun Kapoor

39. Who has been honoured as the "Entrepreneur of the Year" Award for 1999 by the business consultants, Ernst & Young?

- a) Subhash Chandra
b) Adi Godrej
c) Sabeer Bhatia
d) Anil Ambani

40. Akio Morita, who died recently, was the founder of which of the following companies?

- a) Samsung b) Sony
c) National Panasonic
d) Hyundai

41. According to the World Bank's World Development Report, India is the _____ largest economic power in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP):

- a) third b) fourth
c) fifth d) sixth

42. Which recently launched software company had its logo designed by Chetan, a 17-year student at Spastic Society School?

- a) Mindtree b) Infosys
c) Lucent Technologies
d) TCS

43. Name the CEO of NIIT, who has been presented the Distinguished Alumnus Award by IIT, Delhi:

- a) Shiv Nadar
b) Vijay Thadani
c) Ashok Soota
d) Anil Chandwani

44. Which of the following companies has received the Samman Patra from the Customs Department for export performance in 1998-99?

- a) Reliance Industries
b) Maharaja Exports
c) Godrej Appliances
d) Zee Telefilms

45. Gudang Gamang, the cigarette company which plans to set up a factory in Assam, belongs to which country?

- a) India b) Malaysia
c) Singapore d) Thailand

46. To set up a private bank in India, the RBI stipulates that its capital base must be Rs _____ crore.

- a) 100 b) 200
c) 300 d) 400

47. The Salt Lake factory of Philips India Ltd has been sold to which of the following companies?

- a) Videocon b) Samsung
c) BPL d) LG

48. The Proton car, which plans to set up a subsidiary in India, belongs to which country?

- a) S. Korea b) Malaysia
c) Japan d) USA

49. What is the name of the Gramophone Company of India's music subsidiary in England?

- a) Vande Mataram b) Indipop
c) Saregama d) Sangeet

50. Name the Indian business leader in the Top Asians of the Century poll conducted by Time magazine:

- a) Dhirubhai Ambani
b) CK Birla
c) JRD Tata
d) none of the above

ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. b) | 2. d) | 3. a) | 4. c) |
| 5. d) | 6. c) | 7. b) | 8. a) |
| 9. a) | 10. d) | 11. b) | 12. c) |
| 13. a) | 14. b) | 15. d) | 16. c) |
| 17. c) | 18. d) | 19. a) | 20. b) |
| 21. c) | 22. b) | 23. c) | 24. b) |
| 25. a) | 26. d) | 27. c) | 28. c) |
| 29. b) | 30. a) | 31. a) | 32. d) |
| 33. b) | 34. c) | 35. d) | 36. d) |
| 37. c) | 38. c) | 39. a) | 40. b) |
| 41. c) | 42. a) | 43. b) | 44. d) |
| 45. b) | 46. c) | 47. a) | 48. b) |
| 49. c) | 50. c) | | |

ADMISSION ALERT

The Competition Master's Guide to Opportunities

This feature alerts our readers about forthcoming examinations and opportunities Institutes should send us information well in advance to be included here Readers are advised to assess their own suitability and that of the institute before applying—this feature is not a recommendation of any course or institute

Civil Services

Programme of UPSC exams to be held in 2000

Examination	Date of notification	Last date	Exam date
1 Combined Medical Services	16 10 99	15 11 99	26 3 2000
2 Combined Defence Services(I)	13 11 99	13 12 99	9 4 2000
3 NDA and Naval Academy (I)	27 11 99	27 12 99	7 5 2000
4 Civil Services (Preliminary)	18 12 99	17 1 2000	4 6 2000
5 Engineering Services	15 1 2000	14 2 2000	28 6 2000
6 Indian Forest Services	12 2 2000	13 3 2000	23 7 2000
7 Geologists Examination	26 2 2000	27 3 2000	20 8 2000
8 Indian Economic/ Statistical Service	5 3 2000	24 4 2000	3 9 2000
9 NDA and Naval Academy (II)	1 4 2000	1 5 2000	24 9 2000
10 Combined Defence Services (II)	22 4 2000	22 5 2000	15 10 2000
11 Civil Services Mains	-	-	3 11 2000
12 Special Class Railway Apprentices	24 6 2000	24 7 2000	10 12 2000

Design

1 School Leavers' Programme/Advanced Entry

Programme (4/2.5 years)—Eligibility Class 12 with competence in maths, science and social sciences, and age below 22/25 years Written test January 8-9, 2000 Last date November 26, 1999 Apply to National Institute of Design Paldi, Ahmedabad - 380 007 with a DD for Rs 500 payable to Secretary, NID, and a s a s e 25x12 cm with Rs 9 stamps

2 Diploma in (a) Fashion/Accessory Design, b) Textile, knitwear, leather garments design and technology, garment manufacturing and apparel marketing, (c) Advanced Programme in Fashion Design, (d) Garment Manufacturing Technology, (e) Apparel Marketing and Merchandising, (f) Fashion Communication—Eligibility Class 12 with 50% marks for (a) and graduation with 50% marks for (b) Written test February 12-13, 2000 Last date January 7, 2000 Apply to National Institute of Fashion Technology, NIFT Campus, Hauz Khas, Near Gulmohur Park, New Delhi - 110 016 with a DD for Rs 300 or at NIFT centres at Mumbai, Calcutta, Hyderabad, Chennai, Gandhinagar and Bangalore

Management

1 Master of Business Management (MBM)—Eligibility Minimum 2 years' post-qualification work experience and first class bachelor's degree in engineering or masters degree in specified subjects Written examination February 2, 2000 Last date December 15, 1999 Apply to Chairman, GATE, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur - 721 302 with a DD for Rs 1000

2 PGDBM, PGDCA, PGDBM—Part Time, Fellow Programme (FPM), Distance Learning Programmes—Eligibility Bachelor's degree in any discipline, for PGDCA, maths upto class 12 Written test December 26, 1999 Last date December 11, 1999 Apply to Chairman Admissions, Institute of Management Technology (IMT), Rajnagar, Hapur Road, Ghaziabad - 201 001 with a DD for Rs 600 and 2 self-addressed stickers

3 PG Diploma in Management and HRD (PGDM—2 years/PGDHRD—1 year)—Eligibility Graduates with minimum 50% marks for PGDM and Post graduates for PGDHRD. Written test January 9, 2000 Last date: December 20, 1999. Apply to: Symbiosis Centre for Management and HRD (SCMHRD), Atur Centre, New Management Building, Gokhale Cross Road, Model

Colony PO, Pune - 411 016 with a DD for Rs 850 and 4 self-addressed stickers

4 MBA (Part time) and MBA (Health care administration)—Eligibility Graduation with minimum 45% marks and 3 years' experience as an executive for MBA (PT) and Graduation in medicine with 5-year experience in hospital administration for MBA (HCA) Written test January 30, 1999 Last date December 10, 1999 Apply to Faculty of Management Studies University of Delhi, Delhi - 110 007 with a DD for Rs 550

5 PG Diplomas In Business (PGDBA), Advertising and Communications (PGDACM), Rural Marketing (PGDRM)—Eligibility Bachelor's degree with minimum 50% marks Written test February 6, 2000 or GMAT score of 600 and above Last date December 11, 1999 Apply to Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, VL Mehta Road Vile Parle (W), Mumbai - 400 056 with a DD for Rs 800 and a s a s e 9 5x12" with stamps of Rs 55

6 PG Programme in Industrial Management—Eligibility Bachelor's degree in Engineering or Technology with first class Written test January 23, 2000 Last date December 20, 1999 Apply to Assistant Registrar, National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE) Vihar Lake, Mumbai - 400 087 with a DD for Rs 700 and 2 self-addressed stickers

7 Masters Programme in International Business—Written test IIFT test on January 16, 2000 Apply to IIFT and send a copy of the application to PSG Institute of Management, Peelamedu, Coimbatore - 641 064

JEST-2000 for Ph.D Programmes

Institutes—Indian Institute of Astrophysics Bangalore, Institute of Mathematical Sciences Chennai, Institute of Plasma Research Gandhinagar, Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics Pune, Inter University

Consortium for DAE facilities Indore, Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics Allahabad, National Centre Radio Astrophysics Pune, Physical Research Laboratory Ahmedabad, Raman Research Institute Bangalore

Last date for receipt of applications: December 15, 1999 Written test Joint Entrance Screening Test (JEST-2000) on February 6, 2000 Apply to

For Physics: Coordinator, Core Programmes, IUCAA, Post Bag 4 Ganeshkhind, Pune 411 007 with a s a s e 30x12 5 cm with Rs 18 stamps

For Mathematics: Registrar, Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, Chhatnag Road, Jhusi, Allahabad - 211 019 with a s a s e and Rs 9 stamps

For Theoretical Computer Science Chief Administrative Officer, Institute of Mathematical Sciences, CIT Campus, Tharamani, Chennai - 600 113 with a s a s e with Rs 9 stamps

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General Awareness

The questions given below were set in the Staff Selection Commission Combined (Preliminary) Examination held on the 4th July 1999 (Afternoon Session).

We are grateful to Saroshri Mahendar Reddy of Hyderabad and Debyendu Das of Mahapalli (West Bengal) for sending these questions.

1. The tools and weapons of Harappan Civilization were mostly made of:

- (a) stone (b) stone and copper
- (c) copper and bronze (d) copper, bronze and iron

2. The 'Brahmanas' are books which deal with:

- (a) Yoga (b) Philosophy
- (c) Ritual (d) Meditation

3. Kautilya's 'Arthashastra' is a great treatise on:

- (a) Economic policies (b) Political administration
- (c) Inter-State relations (d) Ethics

4. The earliest known Rajput dynasty was:

- (a) Pratiharas (b) Paramaras
- (c) Chandelas (d) Chauhans

5. The 'Hoysalas' were the feudatories of the:

- (a) Pandyas (b) Cholas
- (c) Rashtrakutas (d) Chalukyas

6. The founder of the city of Agra was:

- (a) Alam Khan (b) Daulat Khan
- (c) Bairam Khan (d) Sikander Lodi

7. In which movement led by Mahatma Gandhi, did maximum number of women participate?

- (a) Champaran Movement
- (b) Non-Cooperation Movement
- (c) Civil Disobedience Movement
- (d) Bardoli Satyagraha

8. Dyarchy was introduced in the provinces by:

- (a) Indian Council Act of 1892
- (b) Minto-Morley Reforms of 1909
- (c) Montague-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919
- (d) Government of India Act of 1935

9. Excise duty on a commodity is payable with reference to its:

- (a) production
- (b) production and sale
- (c) production and transportation
- (d) production, transportation and sale

10. Which one of the following States has the lowest population density as per the 1991 Census?

- (a) Assam (b) Himachal Pradesh
- (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Tripura

11. Occupational Structure refers to:

- (a) number of people living in a country

(b) size of work force of a country

(c) distribution of work force among different occupations

(d) total number of jobs in the country

12. The 'Law of Demand' states that when:

- (a) income rises, demand rises
- (b) price rises, demand rises
- (c) price falls, demand rises
- (d) income and price rise, demand rises

13. In order to reduce inequalities, the government should adopt:

- (a) proportional system of taxation
- (b) progressive system of taxation
- (c) regressive system of taxation
- (d) multiple system of taxation

14. The largest source of irrigation in India is:

- (a) Tanks (b) Wells (c) Canals (d) Dams

15. Double taxation is found in the following tax:

- (a) Personal income tax (b) Corporate income tax
- (c) Wealth tax (d) Property tax

16. In economics the 'creation of utilities' is called:

- (a) Production (b) Consumption
- (c) Exchange (d) Distribution

17. Which of the following substances is manufactured by the liver?

- (a) Pepsin (b) Renin (c) Bile (d) Insulin

18. Majority of the 'Dinosaurs' were:

- (a) Carnivores (b) Herbivores
- (c) Omnivores (d) Piscivores

19. Which of the following is not an endocrine gland?

- (a) Salivary gland (b) Adrenal gland
- (c) Thyroid gland (d) Pituitary gland

20. Which of the following is not required for seed germination?

- (a) Water (b) Air
- (c) Sunlight (d) Suitable temperature

21. Science dealing with nervous system is called:

- (a) Osteology (b) Cytology
- (c) Neurology (d) Psychology

22. Name the plant that is used in Ayurveda for improving memory.

- (a) Amla (b) Brahmi (c) Tulsi (d) Vasaka

23. The first 'Earth Summit' was held at:

- (a) San Francisco (b) Frankfurt
- (c) Rio de Janeiro (d) Caracas

24. The only scientist who obtained patents for maximum number of his inventions is:

- (a) Benjamin Franklin (b) Graham Bell
- (c) Albert Einstein (d) Thomas Alva Edison

OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

25. In which of the following geological ages did the Dinosaurs rule this earth?
 (a) Permian—Triassic
 (b) Miocene—Pliocene
 (c) Carboniferous—Permian
 (d) Jurassic—Cretaceous
26. In India, Green Revolution has been most successful in the case of:
 (a) Sugarcane (b) Paddy (c) Wheat (d) Maize
27. Which one of the following is the longest glacier of India?
 (a) Pindari (b) Gangotri (c) Siachen (d) Zemu
28. Lapse Rate is the rate of change in:
 (a) temperature with increase of altitude
 (b) rainfall with increase of altitude
 (c) salinity with ocean depth
 (d) pace of movement of glacier
29. Which one of the following is not suitable for the formation of deltas?
 (a) Calm winds (b) Currents and tides
 (c) Sheltered coastline
 (d) Absence of large lakes alongside the river
30. The term 'Pisciculture' means:
 (a) Rearing of fish (b) Rearing of sheep
 (c) Bee-keeping (d) Rearing of silkworms
31. Seasonal variation is the least:
 (a) at the Arctic Circle (b) at the Equator
 (c) at 45°N latitude (d) at the Tropic of Cancer
32. The number of Schedules contained in the Indian Constitution is:
 (a) 12 (b) 10 (c) 9 (d) 8
33. *The Kingdom of God is Within You* was written by:
 (a) Tolstoy (b) Mahatma Gandhi
 (c) Vinoba Bhave (d) Thoreau
34. "Man was born free, but he is everywhere in chains", was said by:
 (a) Locke (b) Hobbes
 (c) Rousseau (d) Montesquieu
35. The theory of 'Separation of Powers' is closely associated with the name of:
 (a) Jeremy Bentham (b) J.S. Mill
 (c) Montesquieu (d) Thomas Hobbes
36. Who is the Chairman of the National Development Council?
 (a) President (b) Prime Minister
 (c) Finance Minister
 (d) Minister of Human Resource Development
37. Where is the SAARC Secretariat situated?
 (a) Islamabad (b) Colombo
 (c) New Delhi (d) Kathmandu
38. The woman athlete who secured gold medals for India in 1500 m and 800 m races at the Bangkok Asiad was:
 (a) Shiny Wilson (b) Jyotirmoyee Sikdar
 (c) P.T. Usha (d) Ashwini Nachappa
39. With which of the following sports is Alok Kumar associated?
 (a) Hockey (b) Cricket (c) Billiards (d) Badminton
40. A new astronomical observatory likely to be ranked the world's highest is being set up at:
 (a) Udhagamandalam (Ooty) (b) Ladakh
 (c) Shimla (d) Darjeeling
41. South-South dialogue is associated with:
 (a) Co-operation among developing nations
 (b) Arms conference
 (c) Summit meeting between developed and developing countries
 (d) All the above
42. Writers in which Indian language have secured the largest number of Gyanpith Awards?
 (a) Hindi (b) Marathi (c) Kannada (d) Bengali
43. Which of the following Sri Lankan political leaders was killed in a bomb blast?
 (a) Lalit Atulatumudali (b) Ranasinghe Premadasa
 (c) Gamini Dissanayake (d) All the above
44. The largest storehouse of alternative energy is:
 (a) Solar (b) Tidal (c) Atomic (d) Geothermal
45. 'Khalsa' was founded by:
 (a) Guru Gobind Singh (b) Guru Ramdas
 (c) Guru Nanak (d) Guru Arjun Dev
46. The fourth State of matter is known as:
 (a) Gas (b) Vapour (c) Plasma (d) Electrons
47. 22nd March, 1999 corresponds to which day in the Saka calendar adopted by the Government of India?
 (a) 1st Baisakh, 1924 (b) 1st Chaitra, 1921
 (c) 22nd Chaitra, 1921 (d) None of the above
48. That the earth is rotating on its axis is established by the fact that:
 (a) the moon and stars move in the sky
 (b) the earth experiences day and night
 (c) the planetary winds are blowing
 (d) the time in different parts of the earth is not the same
49. The process of disintegration of rocks without changing their chemical composition is:
 (a) Exfoliation (b) Carbonation
 (c) Oxidation (d) Hydration
50. Which one of the following is the source for the extraction of aluminium?
 (a) Hematite (b) Magnetite (c) Bauxite (d) Gypsum

ANSWERS

1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (a) 5. (d) 6. (d)
 7. (b) 8. (c) 9. (b) 10. (c) 11. (c) 12. (c)
 13. (b) 14. (b) 15. (c) 16. (b) 17. (c) 18. (a)
 19. (a) 20. (d) 21. (c) 22. (b) 23. (c) 24. (d)
 25. (d) 26. (c) 27. (c) 28. (a) 29. (b) 30. (a)
 31. (b) 32. (a) 33. (a)
 34. (c) The book *The Social Contract* written by Rousseau begins with this sensational opening sentence.
 35. (c) 36. (b) 37. (d) 38. (b) 39. (c) 40. (b)
 41. (c) 42. (c) 43. (b) 44. (a) 45. (a) 46. (c)
 47. (d) 48. (b) 49. (a) 50. (c)

How Well have You Read CM?

The following questions are based on the October '99 issue of *The Competition Master*. They will help you revise current affairs. If you do not know certain answers, do make an effort to locate them in our last issue.

1. Akio Morita, who died recently, was the co-founder of which of the following companies?

- a) Sony b) Toyota
- c) Konika d) Daewoo

2. The winner of the Nobel Prize for literature for 1999, Gunter Grass, belongs to which of the following countries?

- a) USA b) England
- c) Germany d) Poland

3. Name the airline that has introduced e-ticketing in India:

- a) Jet Airways b) Sahara
- c) Indian Airlines d) Air India

4. The world's population touched 6 billion on which of the following dates, according to UNFPA?

- a) September 27, 1999
- b) September 12, 1999
- c) August 15, 1999
- d) October 12, 1999

5. Which is India's top newspaper, with a readership of 94.54 lakhs, according to the latest NRS?

- a) Malayala Manorma
- b) The Times of India
- c) Daily Thanthi d) The Hindu

6. Where is the tallest building in the world located?

- a) New York b) Kuala Lumpur
- c) Seoul d) Canberra

7. Teejan Bai is associated with which of the following fields?

- a) journalism b) folk dance
- c) ballet d) folk music

8. The single largest borrowing country from the IMF in 1998-99 was:

- a) Brazil b) Mexico
- c) Thailand d) South Korea

9. The IMF plans to sell one-tenth of

its gold reserves to Central banks for what purpose?

- a) to mobilise additional funds for lending
- b) to finance debt relief of the poorest countries
- c) to ease the lending requirements of member nations
- d) as an interim measure till it gets more funds from USA

10. What is the amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) that India was able to attract in 1998 against its target of \$ 10 billion, according to a report by the UNCTAD?

- a) \$ 2.3 billion b) \$ 3.2 billion
- c) \$ 5.3 billion d) \$ 6.5 billion

11. What is the capital of Ghana?

- a) Ghana city b) Nairobi
- c) Ankara d) Accra

12. Where was the summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) held recently?

- a) Cologne b) Geneva
- c) Auckland d) New York

13. Name the Chancellor of Germany.

- a) Helmut Kohl
- b) Gerhard Schroeder
- c) Chris Schulz
- d) Paul Allen

14. Which regiment has won the Chief of Army Staff banner for its valour during Operation Vijay?

- a) Rajputana Rifles
- b) Ladakh Scouts
- c) Grenadiers
- d) Gorkha

15. Hosni Mubarak, who has been elected President for fourth consecutive term, is the President of which of the following countries?

- a) Greece b) Turkey
- c) Algeria d) Egypt

16. Name the winner of the US Open 1999 in the women's section?

- a) Martina Hingis
- b) Steffi Graf

c) Serena Williams

d) Monica Seles

17. Tasneem Ahmed Siddiqui, who has won the Magsaysay Award 1999 for government service, is from which of the following countries?

- a) Pakistan b) Bangladesh
- c) India d) Philippines

18. Which university has plans to offer a masters degree in engineering through the Internet?

- a) IGNOU
- b) Anna University
- c) Pondicherry University
- d) none of the above

19. The city of Tokaimura in Japan was in the news recently because:

- a) it was the headquarters of a banned religious sect
- b) it was hit by an earthquake
- c) there are plans to make it into a millennium city
- d) it was the scene of a nuclear accident

20. Why was Sonika Joshi in the news recently?

- a) she received a gallantry award for operating sorties during Operation Vijay
- b) she has been listed as the richest woman in USA
- c) she is among the first women to have joined the merchant navy
- d) she has been selected by NASA for training to be an astronaut

(Answers will appear in our January, 2000 issue)

(Answers to November 1999 Quiz)

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. a | 2. c | 3. d | 4. b |
| 5. d | 6. c | 7. b | 8. b |
| 9. a | 10. d | 11. a | 12. c |
| 13. b | 14. b | 15. a | 16. d |
| 17. c | 18. c | 19. d | 20. b |
| 21. c | 22. a | 23. b | 24. d |

Improve Your Word Power

1. **aficionado:** (a) enthusiastic person (b) irresponsible person (c) stage management (d) anchor person.

2. **boomerang:** (a) benefit (b) harm (c) differentiate (d) discriminate.

3. **calibrate:** (a) imitate (b) separate (c) join (d) measure.

4. **deign:** (a) be gracious (b) be grateful (c) be punctual (d) be brief.

5. **echelon:** (a) difference (b) calculation (c) level (d) equality.

6. **fortification:** (a) resolution (b) wisdom (c) liberty (d) support.

7. **grandiloquent:** (a) humble manners (b) easily understood (c) pompous style (d) late arrival.

8. **holocaust:** (a) construction (b) destruction (c) exhibition (d) excursion.

9. **intractable:** (a) unfit (b) unwell (c) unmanageable (d) unimportant.

10. **low-down:** (a) dis-

honourable (b) dutiful (c) decadent (d) hopeless.

11. **mandatory:** (a) compulsory (b) optional (c) childish (d) regular.

12. **perfidious:** (a) helpful (b) delicate (c) deceitful (d) decent.

13. **quixotic:** (a) ideal (b) premature (c) visionary (d) mortal.

14. **rattle:** (a) betray (b) forgive (c) force (d) repeat.

15. **shindy:** (a) celebration (b) noisy disturbance (c) conventional attitude (d) spiritual discourse.

16. **taboo:** (a) prohibition (b) permission (c) admission (d) attendance.

17. **ubiquitous:** (a) insincere (b) faithful (c) inescapable (d) incapable.

18. **vivacious:** (a) sad (b) greedy (c) needy (d) lively.

19. **weird:** (a) unbecoming (b) unusual (c) unreal (d) unholy.

20. **zap:** (a) overwhelm (b) overtake (c) overhaul (d) over-

arrangement

—The under-representation of the weaker sections in the higher echelons of judiciary is a matter that needs careful consideration

6. **fortification:** (d) strength, support.

—Before the fury of floods Gorakhpur found neither spiritual nor temporal fortification against nature at its most raw.

7. **grandiloquent** (c) pompous style

—The audience failed to appreciate the grandiloquent gestures (speech) of the learned speaker.

8. **holocaust:** (b) destruction.

—Each war leaves behind a telling tale of holocaust.

9. **intractable:** (c) unmanageable.

—Since both fiscal and revenue deficits have reached intractable levels, there is an urgent need to cut subsidies.

10. **low-down:** (a) dishonourable.

—That was a pretty low-down trick to play!

11. **mandatory:** (a) compulsory.

—It was made clear to my friend that attendance was mandatory at all meetings.

12. **perfidious:** (c) deceitful.

—Unfortunately, India

has to live with a perfidious neighbour.

13. **quixotic.** (c) visionary, impracticable.

—The notion that a third force can emerge leaving out both the national parties has proved quixotic so far

14. **rattle:** (d) repeat.

—The child rattled off the poem he had learnt at school.

15. **shindy:** (b) noisy disturbance or fight.

—There was a dreadful shindy in the pub last night.

16. **taboo:** (a) prohibition, ban

—Personal problems or confessions, that were once taboo, are now discussed openly.

17. **ubiquitous:** (c) inescapable, omnipresent.

—Cancer, AIDS and the ubiquitous backache occupy centre-stage as the scourges of our times.

18. **vivacious:** (d) lively, high-spirited

—Towards the end of the interview she gave a vivacious laugh

19. **weird:** (b) unusual, unconventional.

—I found some of her poems a bit weird.

20. **zap:** (a) overwhelm, move quickly.

—The police has been totally zapped by the documents seized from the city Don's house.

ANSWERS

1. **aficionado:** (a) enthusiastic person.

—When well-known actors agree to perform on the stage, aficionados flock to the theatre.

2. **boomerang:** (b) harm, recoil.

—Without home work, privatisation in the power sector can boomerang.

3. **calibrate:** (d) measure, commence.

—Any condition to calibrate trade talks between India and Pakistan without some progress on Kashmir is a waste of time.

4. **deign:** (a) be gracious.

—He passed by me without even deigning to look at me.

5. **echelon:** (c) level,

CIVIL SERVICES/BANK P.O./RBI OFFICERS' EXAM SPECIAL

Questions on Social and Economic Problems

The Right to Know

Q. "The secrecy in government seriously restricts the availability of information and adversely affects democracy in India." Do you accept this view? Give reasons *For* and *Against* it.

Ans. All the guarantees of free speech and of a free press sound meaningless because of the needless restrictions on the access to information about several matters concerning the nation. The government functions, by and large, in an atmosphere of hush-hush and secrecy; it denies information even on matters which should be common knowledge. Doesn't the government make a fetish of secrecy under the disguise of public interest? Will public interest not be promoted, instead of being harmed, if the people are taken into confidence about vital matters in which they are naturally interested?

Arguments *For* the view

1. Secrecy obviously diminishes, and at times even makes nonsense of democracy, of which we boast so much. A political party may secretly harm national interests in the absence of an open debate and yet escape the consequences. Such eventualities should be foreseen and forestalled.

2. The whole concept according to which executive officials claim the right to withhold information even from M.P.s and other leaders of public opinion, by contending that it is "classified", is ill-founded and should be open to question.

3. The U.S. Supreme Court, in the famous case *New York Times vs. U.S.*, while rejecting the government's plea, ruled that only a free and unrestrained press could effectively expose deception in government and that it is one of the paramount duties of a free press in a free country to prevent the government from deceiving the people. The word "security", the Judge said, is broad and a vague generality

whose contours should not be exploited to abrogate the fundamental right of the freedom of speech. He expressed the view that even guarding the military and diplomatic secrets, at the expense of informed representative government, provides no real security.

4. It is obvious that whenever a government does not trust the people, the people, in turn, will not trust the government, as the famous saying goes, trust begets trust. In fact, there is strong public opinion that secrecy is detrimental to the country's interests because it is often used by the ruling party to protect its own political interests and hide its errors, including corrupt practices, nepotism and favouritism.

5. Besides, the right to withhold information permits the government to mould public opinion so as to promote party interests; for instance, by regulating the flow of information and releasing it only when it suits its own purposes, rather than the national interests.

Arguments *Against*

1. Secrecy, as a famous philosopher said, is inherent in every bureaucracy. In fact, it is regarded as a functional necessity and an essential right without which no government can carry on its work. The fact remains that secrecy is essential in military and diplomatic matters. Diplomacy cannot be conducted openly; publicity during critical negotiations would defeat the very purpose of diplomacy.

2. In Britain, the Officials Secrets Act covers several spheres of activity, publicity to which would undermine the security of the State and protection to government officials. It is not without reason that disclosures of vital information and publication of official documents is prohibited until such time as public knowledge of these matters is deemed safe in the national interest. Besides, under the 30-year

rule in Britain, more than a generation has to elapse before the citizens are allowed to know the reasons and the factors that governed the determination of a particular policy line.

3. For reasons of the security of the State, and for saving individuals from untimely disclosures, restrictions have been imposed on the publication of memoirs by Ministers who are eager to disclose their experiences of government even by referring to Cabinet decisions and discussions which they are bound by the oath of secrecy.

4. While it is true that much official information is not openly given, a great deal of it is disclosed in Parliament in response to questions and in Minister's speeches. The numerous White Papers, government reports and documents, all contain information about departmental functioning and policy matters. Official briefings and Ministers' Press conferences also provide considerable information. Must the common man be told all the secrets of government?

5. Disclosure of vital information will prejudice the country's interests and even national safety, because enemy agents, spies and foreign embassies will exploit the vital facts. Any government that does not safeguard its archives would be held guilty of national betrayal.

Money and Power

Q. "Economic power is the basis of all political power." Give arguments *For* and *Against* this view.

Ans. The close links of economic power with political domination have been known for ages; everyone believes—and rightly—that only those who control the purse strings can hope to wield political power. There can seldom be a case of a pauper or a person with limited means exercising considerable authority and in-

fluence. In other words, the power over finance leads, sooner or later, to other kinds of power, especially political power. It is true that political power in a democracy stems largely from the ballot-box, and that the voters are the ultimate arbiters of the politicians' destiny, but the question is: Who are the people who can win over the electorate? Either demagogues, powerful speakers and orators, or those who can spend large amounts of money during elections to woo the voters. Poor people cannot hope to sway the electorate even if they can deliver good speeches and make pathetic, soul stirring appeals. But there is also the other side: rich people may spend massive sums of money in a bid to buy votes, but the voters of today cannot be misled or swayed by the lure of gold. They have become enlightened and can discriminate between the genuine and the fake.

Arguments For the view

1 A study conducted by the Indian Institute of Public Administration has established that possession of wealth is the *de facto* passport to political power. Such rich people and industrial houses have direct access to the seats of authority, they influence the choice of people who are to become the top-most executives of the country.

2 Whenever, by sheer oratory or person-to-person contacts, someone who is not wealthy does manage to get power, become a Minister or secures some other kind of authority, he is soon displaced by men (and women) of means. So, it is true to say that economic power is the very basis of all political power.

3 Liberal means and methods are adopted by rich and prosperous people to win over those occupying high seats of power. They offer lavish hospitality, guest houses, the use of motor cars, offers of attractive jobs, foreign tours and lucrative sales agencies which ensure large incomes without much effort. When such temptations are offered, few human beings can resist them.

4 Even when there is no direct and open exercise of political power by the wealthy, control of power in their favour comes through regulation and moulding of policy to suit the needs of large industrial houses and also through licences and permits and quotas of raw material. If this were not so, the industrial houses could not have become so large and so rich.

Arguments Against the View

1 Time was when the glitter of gold was everything. People could be bought and sold like chattels, and their actions could also be manipulated to suit the moods and needs of the rich. But with the progress of education and general enlightenment this is no longer possible except in very backward societies.

2 With the rapid progress of democracy, what has been described as 'the disastrous link between politics and industry and between money power and political power' is bound to weaken. It has also to be noted that the victory of the Janata Party in the 1977 elections was a victory of the people against immense wealth, including the use of large chunks of black money. Many of the Janata M.P.s and M.L.A.s did not spend much to win elections, they rode on the anti-Emergency wave, and men of

ordinary means were able to defeat rich electoral contenders who were confident of sweeping the polls by virtue of their political influence based on economic power. So, there is no guarantee at all that economic power alone will control political authority.

3 India's recent history shows that the reverse of the proposition is coming out to be true: political power begins to control economic power. Several politicians made a humble start, they had very limited means and held petty positions but gradually amassed wealth and thus started controlling power. Everyone is free in a democracy to earn money by honest means.

Backward and Forward

Q "The categorisation of certain economically weak sections of the people into Backward Classes under the Constitution and the grant of additional facilities to them should not be stopped and everyone should not have equal opportunities." Give arguments *For* and *Against* this view.

Ans Under the Constitution of India (Article 14 in the chapter on Fundamental Rights) every citizen is equal before the law and is entitled to equal protection of the laws within the territory of India. But Article 15(4) empowers the government to make special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. A large number of people, about 20 to 25 per cent, are listed as belonging to the backward

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classes and have been given special privileges, through reservations and percentage quotas in recruitment to the services, in respect of admissions to educational institutions, promotions, etc, with the result that members of other communities, regarded as socially and economically advanced, are often denied opportunities which they feel are their due, because members of the officially classified "Scheduled Castes and Tribes" get preference and often supersede others, not on the basis of merit but simply on the basis of caste labels and affiliations. This practice is open to considerable objection and implies injustice to countless people. Besides, a vested interest has developed in being classified as "backward" even when the person concerned may be rich and well off both socially and economically.

Arguments For

1. People who are economically backward certainly deserve special consideration, otherwise they will never get a chance (at least most of them) to rise in life and become useful members of society. The social, educational and economic handicaps often prove crippling and soul-killing, and it is the duty of the government to promote their welfare.

2. The Constitution of India specifically requires the State to remove the backlog of backwardness through positive steps. In particular, the Directive Principles of State Policy recommend promotion of educational and economic interests of the backward classes and their protection from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. This explains the importance of the various measures enacted by the government to ban bonded labour, denial of opportunities for worship and for drawing water from wells, etc.

3. A small group of people may have benefited unduly from the officially available concessions and privileges, but the fact cannot be denied that the vast majority of the people classified as belonging to backward classes are indeed poor and fully deserve patronage, even at the cost of the other communities; otherwise they will never be able to reach the required level.

4. It is almost impossible to devise a fool-proof formula for describing economic and social backwardness. There are many grades and stages of such backwardness and each aspirant claims to have suffered more than the others. About 15 per cent of the country's population consists of Scheduled Castes, but in no State do they hold more than 6 per cent of Class I jobs. A large number of them are landless labourers; others are engaged in petty jobs, with little hope of ever rising to respectable positions unless they get out-of-turn opportunities and promotions.

5 During the past 52 years since freedom much has been talked of about improving the lot of *Harijans*, but very little has actually been done for them. The Constitutional guarantees have proved ineffective; so there is no case for ending the system of reservations.

Arguments Against

1. Certain communities which are listed as Scheduled Castes in pursuance of Article 341 and 342 of the Constitution are still entitled to certain concessions and privileges because they are handicapped and need special attention to bring them up to certain levels. Thousands of cases are known of people who have exploited their caste and class labels to secure certain gains undeservedly, resulting in grave injustice to others.

2. The confusion over the classification of backward classes has persisted. Clear, tangible criteria have not been prescribed, with the result that there is considerable misuse of this concession. The entire issue has become a scandal, and the earlier this misused system is abolished the better.

3. The sole criterion should be the economic condition, not caste or class. Poor and deserving people of all classes should be entitled to receive special privileges. The legal label has served its purpose and should be discontinued. It is unfair and obviously undemocratic.

4. The compensations for being classified as "backward" and belonging to Scheduled Castes are so lavish that many people deliberately get themselves listed thus, to wrongfully secure the gains at the cost of others. Cases are known of wrong birth certificates, wrong entries of parentage etc in order to become Scheduled Caste members or members of a backward, semi-educated class.

5. Each political party seeks to exploit the Scheduled Castes and *Harijans* by assuring them more jobs and more concessions, wiping off of their debts—all at the cost of the majority community. Such practices should be discouraged, if not totally stopped in the wider national interests.

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Here is an experiment. Ask any Indian what are the main problems facing the country today and what can be done about them. The replies can well be predicted: we all know that the problems are population, illiteracy, poverty. The solutions suggested can also be predicted: invariably the respondent returns to what the government should or should not do. Each person—from the barber who holds forth when he cuts your hair, to the student, to the learned professor and the economist—will, in all probability, reply in these terms. We rarely think beyond what someone else should be doing to solve our problems. Seldom do we think why anybody should solve anybody else's problems, least of all a disinterested government *babu* whose thinking never extends beyond the next pay scale and the next holiday.

Why, then, is our thinking so limited? The answer, perhaps, lies in the fact that much of power and resources are centralised in the hands of government. We pay taxes and we expect the government to look after us. Whether it is building a road, catching a thief or supplying onions at an affordable price, we look to the government. So much has our thinking been corrupted that we do not think twice about littering the streets, hoping that the government will come and clean the surroundings after us.

The foolishness of this approach becomes obvious when we consider that the government official is incapable of looking after anyone but himself.

The thinking, undoubtedly, results from the British system which made the natives totally dependent on them for everything. We have been unable to change our attitude and unthinkingly pass on the blame for everything to the government, without

realising the foolishness of our approach. We have to remember that the days of colonisation are over. In the previous century, the East India Company could control us by centralising power, but today the world has moved towards freedom and democracy. Dictators are fashionable in only a few countries. The islands of prosperity on the world map are those countries where democracy and freedom

thrives. In countries where there is too much control by the government or an individual, poverty is abundant.

The message from this is clear: the next century belongs only to those who can break out of the outdated ideas of centralised control. We have to *rethink* the very basis of government. Should it be a centralised power that takes all our taxes but gives

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

When the future is considered, it is often in terms of the problems that will be facing us. But what if we could look into the future and see what the world will be like in the year 2000? What if we could see the world as it will be in the year 2000? What if we could see the world as it will be in the year 2000?



One writer, whose work has been praised enough to win the Nobel Prize, has in his 1932 work, *What Next?* given a brilliant description of human tendencies in the use of science and technology and explains the world which will be recognised, and second, about the technology of the future.

The second set of predictions are quite amazing as Huxley got most of them right. His story of these fantastic flight machines and the transportation of Huxley imagined a world in which flight between America and England would take 6.5 hours.

and television would be in every home and every home. Everyone would use a contraceptive pill because human life growth is too rapid. He was also perhaps the only writer who foresaw sexual equality in the world. People would be the "happiest" people ever known and large groups with many small cities to give a better experience of the "happiest" people ever known.

There is another shocking prediction in Huxley's children's and grandchildren with children should be born only from fertilised eggs and implanted in the womb with perfect intelligence of the common society — which is a world that is not a world of the future. These predictions are not the same as the predictions of the future. The predictions of the future are not the same as the predictions of the future. The predictions of the future are not the same as the predictions of the future.

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little in return, or should an individual feel free and empowered to solve his own problems?

Devolution of powers

If the trend in the past century was towards centralisation, now more and more people are demanding self-determination and influence in the decisions that affect them. About 95 per cent of democracies have elected subnational governments. Countries are devolving powers to subnational tiers of government. There is a trend towards localisation. The colonial powers were beaten in the last century; in this century it is the turn of centralised governments.

Decentralisation increases the efficiency and responsiveness of government. In Russia, this need led to break down of the Soviet Union, while in India many regional parties have won the elections against the national party like the Congress. National concerns take a backseat as people want local concerns to be addressed. A strong Central government, by definition, cannot satisfy people's needs. There is some truth in the saying that elections have become municipalised, but what it means is that people are more concerned about what affects them rather than larger national issues.

However, there are two things that must be taken into account. First, decentralisation can lower the quality of public services. Decentralisation may simply mean that power is transferred from national to local elites. Second, if the locals have too much power, like panchayats in villages, they may invent

their own system of administering justice as they were doing in the past. This will lead to great social injustices and may exacerbate caste differences. Localisation must then be within a given framework, and some checks introduced so that society does not return to its feudal past. The subnational governments must be accountable.

Trends do show that the localisation process is picking up in India. State planning has been blunted as the Planning Commission has lost its relevance. Liberalisation and privatisation means that the State has less role to play in economic development. In government, regional parties in national coalitions are strengthening State governments and allowing them a larger role in defining their development priorities. The trend towards decentralisation was reinforced by the 73rd and the 74th Constitutional amendment and introduced *panchayati raj*.

One factor that inhibits decentralisation is the army of bureaucrats, who will find their powers being gradually reduced. The secretaries and



The Role of the Central Government will be severely limited....That is a good sign, as bureaucrats have stood in the way of development of the country for many years.

on salaries and the resultant deficits, but it takes a strong will to break the existing power structure. IAS lobbies will prevent greater devolution of powers and will have to be physically removed from the scene. Alternately, officers may find themselves becoming irrelevant as people simply solve their own problems without assistance or permission of the government.

Already, a dislike is being fostered for government *babus*. In the cyclone that hit Orissa in October 1999, people reportedly beat up the civil servants for their inability to pass on the warnings to them, even though the meteorological office had given such warnings much in advance. People are slowly realising that people in government jobs are unreliable, lazy and dishonest. Thus, a

the deputy collectors will have no say in local administration once powers are devolved. That is a good sign, as bureaucrats have stood in the way of development of the country for many years. The reduction in government will also result in reducing government spending

distant government, no matter how strong it is, cannot serve local needs.

In the new millennium, therefore, the role of the Central government will be severely limited. Already, the bureaucracy finds itself with less and less work as the contribution of the public sector has declined and private companies have become more important. In many places, people have stopped depending on the government and are solving their own problems. In many localities, people employ private security agencies and use water tankers for their needs as they have realised that it is useless to depend on government-provided services.

The message is clear: in the new millennium, the individual will have to be more active and must stop depending on others to solve problems. Slowly, many services like garbage disposal, security, building roads, etc may either be privatised or their control will pass on to the local bodies.

Dynamic Cities

The second major trend is the decline of agriculture in the share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), as manufacturing and services begin to dominate the economy. It has been statistically proved that sustained economic growth is always accompanied by urbanisation. The reason is that goods and services are more efficiently produced in densely populated areas where there is a pool of skilled labour, a network of firms that act as suppliers of goods and services, and a critical mass of customers. Globalisation provides a

means of economic growth. Though modern technologies provide the means to communicate with anyone in the world at the click of a button, this will not mean that the trend towards urbanisation will decline. Though customers may be scattered all over the world, firms still require a pool of labour, services and talent to solve problems which may not be available at distant places. Thus, globalisation is likely to contribute to further urbanisation.

The World Bank data shows that cities account for an ever-increasing share of national income. They generate 55 per cent of Gross National Product (GNP) in low-income countries, 73 per cent in middle-income countries and 85 per cent in high-income countries. The growth sectors of the economy are usually concentrated in cities. This explains why land costs in cities are 50-100 times greater than areas just 50-75 kms away from the city centre: the high costs are more than offset by economic benefits that cities offer.

The debate on why villages are not developing to make rural populations stay there is, thus, defunct. There is little doubt that India should pay more attention to her villages, but at the same time, the country must concentrate on its cities so that while becoming engines of growth, they should provide decent lives to those who live there. Cities also must be prepared for future influx of people who come looking for economic opportunities.

For this purpose, investments in infrastructure are needed. The pressure for investment will be particular-

ly heavy during a country's urban transition. Further, cities must absorb some 2.4 billion new urban residents expected over the next 30 years. This will require further investment in sanitation, water, housing, transport and power. The scale of the problem can well be imagined, since providing water and sanitation alone in the cities of the developing countries will cost nearly 5 per cent of their GDP.

Much of the investment will have to come from private sources, at least in India. The government faces a fiscal crisis as its spending has gone out of control, and there is a huge deficit to cover. It is, therefore, unlikely that the government will be able to spend the volumes required to make our cities liveable. Individuals will have to finance housing from their own resources and lending institutions will become popular. Private construction firms must be encouraged to invest in urban areas. Once again, the emphasis must be more on local initiatives than on Central ones. If a road or a bridge is to be made somewhere, for instance, why should a secretary of government in New Delhi be involved in its decision?

Centrally-planned investment decisions have proven to be arbitrary allocations and sever the links between spending and maintenance. In contrast, municipal bodies that have control over investment decisions can respond to local priorities better. This also places more responsibility on locally elected representatives. Today, the



In the new millennium, the individual will have to be more active and must stop depending on others to solve problems.

tendency is to win elections and to forget about the electorate. But people will surely not forgive such behaviour, not only at election time, but also after it.

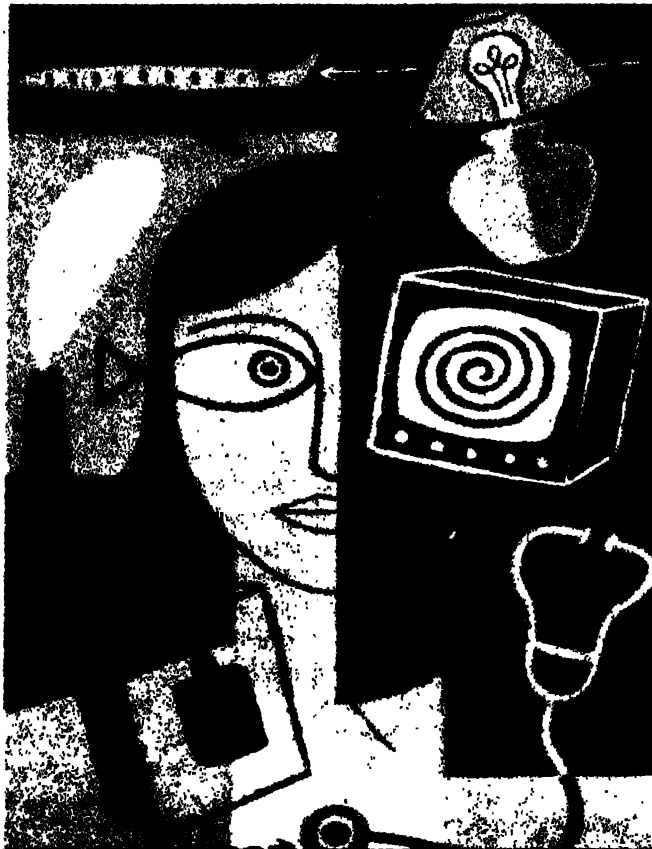
The air we breathe, the water we don't have

As cities expand, the pressure on essential services will continue to grow. In India, the responsibility for providing these services has traditionally been in the domain of the public sector, but the results have been unsatisfactory. No matter which area we look at—garbage disposal, transportation, communications—each is a sad story of neglect. Further, the development process ignores the poor who provide these essential services: they have to live in slums which are spreading by the day. Our cities, thus, need to turn away from an unsuccessful model that leaves out the very providers of essential services.

This poses a great challenge to cities world-wide. In 1994, at least 220 million urban dwellers lacked access to clean drinking water and twice as many had no access to even the simplest latrines. Almost half of all solid waste went uncollected, piling up in streets and

drains, contributing to spread of disease. Domestic and industrial waste is being released into waterways, affecting the quality of life in villages that depend on the waterways downstream. The Yamuna river now is an open drain carrying the capital's wastes. The La Paz river in Bolivia is so polluted that it has reduced downstream horticulture. The Pasig river in Manila is now biologically dead. China's rivers suffer from environment problems of a huge magnitude. Very often, food production has been affected as the waters of the rivers cannot be used for crops in downstream villages.

Another problem is air pollution. The World Bank report says that for most children in large cities of developing countries, breathing the air is as harmful as smoking two packs of cigarettes a day. In Delhi, the incidence of bronchial asthma in the 5-16 age group is 10-12 per cent. A 1990 study of atmospheric lead pollution in Bangkok estimated that 30,000-70,000 children risked losing 4 or more IQ points because of high lead levels. Many others risked smaller reductions in intelligence. China has 9 of the 10 cities in the world with the highest counts of Total Suspended Particulates (TSPs)—500 micrograms per cubic metre as against WHO



The new millennium will challenge our idea of development. What is the use of development that displaces people and seems to work against the poor? What is needed perhaps is a development that keeps people firmly in the picture.

acceptable levels of less than 100.

This has an economic cost as well. It is difficult to estimate the amount spent by people on healthcare as a result of acquiring pollution related diseases, but losses on account of traffic jams in Bangkok city alone are estimated to be up to \$1 billion a year. Health costs in China, due to urban residents' exposure to air pollution, is expected to rise from \$32 billion in 1995 to \$98 billion in 2020.

We can, thus, say that the

model where the public sector is responsible for delivering basic services, has failed. It is important to learn from cities of the developed world, which faced the same problems in the nineteenth century, but today are clean and modern. In Europe, in the 1850s, cities were flooded with rural migrants and supply of basic services could not keep pace. A revolution in public sanitation ensued—cities invested heavily in housing, water, sewerage and drainage facilities. These investments were possible

because the rich were as affected by the pollution as were the poor and they were able to influence decisions for investments required to improve the life in cities.

Now, however, the rich are not affected by the pollution. They can afford modern medicine which makes it possible to protect themselves from disease. Water is available in bottles, while housing societies solve problems of sanitation and security for their residents. Air conditioners block out the worst effects of air pollution. Thus, the impetus of public action to solve urban problems has vanished. The modern city has been divided among those who can supply for their own needs and those who depend on public services. This not only prevents investments taking place for society as a whole, but is likely to create great social tensions, as also an increase in crime.

The answer then, lies in community efforts. Professional private sector firms, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and citizens' groups hold the key to make our cities liveable. This is the "quiet revolution" in local governance that is needed in the next millennium. There have been many successful programmes of this kind in many cities across the world, but they have been fragmented. The challenge is to replicate these models on a large scale in our cities. The idea is to develop partnerships that allow synergy and combining of resources of the public sector, international organisations, the voluntary and community sector, and individuals. The next step is to initiate an empowerment process

that enables community-based groups to define their own goals and options.

Rethinking Development

Many of the injustices perpetuated today come from a dangerous concept of development that subordinates humans. Dams are built, tourist spots are 'developed' and industries built—all in the pursuit of "development". Quite often, people are displaced and natural capital of a country destroyed, but since it cannot be measured, it is not counted. The recent downturn of the most remarkable success story—that of East Asia—has raised new questions about the development process. Many of our ideas of development have become outdated, as even the World Bank and IMF have admitted that their approach was wrong many times in the past.

The results of pursuing the policies of the past are for all to see: the average per capita income of the poorest and the middle thirds of all countries have declined compared with the rich nations. Rich countries have been growing faster than poor countries since the Industrial Revolution. The ratio of per capita income between the richest and poorest countries increased sixfold between 1870 and 1985.

Developing countries have been given loans for "development" and, as a result, find themselves caught in a debt trap—meaning that they must take fresh loans just to repay the interest on their old debt. The net resource flows are today from

the poor to the rich, not the other way round. The IMF and World Bank have forced debtor nations to follow their prescription of opening up their economies, a result of which was that they were exposed to the danger of the international finance without adequate controls. This was one of the reasons that East Asian countries had collapsed in 1997, pushing the whole region in turmoil. Even if they did not take loans, governments invested in public sector companies, which never worked well.

The international trading system did not help either. Over the years, the terms of trade have increasingly tilted against poor nations. Poor nations produce biomass goods, but prices of commodities have declined in the international markets for decades. High prices are fetched by technological products, which the poor nations cannot produce. Thus, the poor countries are paying more and more to the West to buy the technology so essential for future development.

The levers of aid, trade and debt are largely weighted against the poor countries. Patents pose another problem, with multinational companies vying with each other to patent traditional knowledge for their exclusive profit. Fears of food security have been raised in a country like India, which has so far been self-reliant, as seeds of food-grains have been patented.

The new millennium will challenge our ideas of development. What is the use of a development that displaces people and seems to work against the poor? What is needed perhaps is a devel-

opment that keeps people firmly in the picture. For this, people must take control of what they want. They have to realise that governments or profit-oriented companies cannot look after their needs. The present trend, where the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer, will only result in unstable societies within countries and among the countries themselves.

The Brave New World

Though it is difficult to make predictions about the way the world will look in the next millennium, some trends suggest themselves. First, as powers must be devolved, the world will have more democracy. The proportion of countries that are considered democratic has more than doubled since 1974. Second, the world's urban population is expected to rise by almost 1.5 billion people in the next 20 years. In developing countries the share of population living in urban areas is likely to rise from one-half to two-third by 2025. This means that governments must be prepared for rapid urbanisation. Our responses in the past have been inadequate, which has led to the sorry state of our cities today.

Third, there will be huge demographic pressures. World population is expected to increase by at least 4 billion by 2050. This means that a huge number of people must be fed, sheltered and absorbed into the work force. The composition of the population will shift and there will be more older people as birth-rates decline and life expectancies increase.



The present trend, where the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer, will only result in unstable societies within countries and among the countries themselves.

Fourth, the economy will be more focused on services and communications. It is the age of the knowledge economy—how to do things, how to communicate, how to work with other people—which is going to become more and more important. Investment in human capital will become more urgent than investment in physical capital. More and more business will be conducted over wires and the marketplace will be global.

Finally, looking after the environment will become even more important. Climate change, large scale extinction of species, together with disease, water shortages and land degradation will take up more time and expense than we have imagined.

Ground for revolution?

Having said this, it must also be said that gazing into the future is a tough business. Who could have predicted the rise of computer technologies and shrinking of the world that we are witnessing today? Likewise, there could be some technology about which we have no idea at present, but which may be lurking in laboratories and may change our lives

forever when it is unleashed.

Several trends point to disturbing scenarios. The spread of AIDS is one which threatens to bring about an upheaval. Nuclear weapons too threaten our very existence. Along with the movement towards democracy is a strong move towards fundamentalism. Countries that wish to break away from a Central control (Chechnya, East Timor) are brutally suppressed. Above all, there is a rise in poverty that may well be laying the foundation of the next revolution which could disrupt our very system. It was such an upheaval in the past that had brought communism into the world.

Whatever one considers, there is no denying that we face great challenges in the next century. The scale of everything is bigger than we have ever imagined. The macro changes taking place, including the installation of a new world order governed by WTO, patents and international agreements, gives rise to the need for developing a sound knowledge base, nationally and individually. Many of the ideas that have helped us through the previous century just may not work in the future. A radical shift in thinking is needed to meet the needs and challenges of a changed world.

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A sure recipe for misery is always think about yourself, your wants, people should pay respect to you. You will, thus, convert everything you touch into a dark, dismal entity and become a wretch on two legs.

People with a penchant for misery are difficult and dangerous to live with—they destroy their own happiness as ours.

Misery spreads like plague. One disgruntled member of a household is able to create a tense and desperate atmosphere seriously affecting others who live under the same roof.

The unhappy rarely realise the trouble they spread. They consider unhappiness as their natural lot and react as scandalised when the truth becomes known to them.

Relatives, friends who are in constant touch with them become used to their attitude and may suffer gradual transformation.

Unfortunately, it seems easier to spread unhappiness than what is calm and serene.

Unrealistic

AMBITION is another killer. Those who aim too high are constantly frustrated by not getting in. There is nothing wrong with ambition itself. It is unrealistic ambition that makes one a misery-manufacturer. If you have fuel for one thousand mules, can you undertake a journey in your car for five? Realisation of talent, ability and capability are signposts of happiness and success. The reverse brings frustration and fault-finding which inevitably recoils with disastrous results.

A man has successfully influenced his whole family into his way of thinking. He grouches that he does not like the place he lives in, and if he had not put so much money into establishing a home he would move.

The home itself does not please him as he believes the contractors defrauded him by substituting poor quality material when his back was turned. He trusts no one. He is tardy in paying and constantly

disputes the goods or service received.

Others take pleasure in creating and living in a tense atmosphere enjoying intrigues, having their "secrets", the "back-biters", those who love to belittle themselves as well as others, the determined materialists who think in terms of money and cheap love.

Regretters

AMONGST them are the unhappy types, belonging to both sexes, but females predominating, who have plunged themselves into love affairs and as soon as they became really involved fell into self-blame, repentance and never to do it again.

There are a number of pitfalls worth considering. You might be one of the people a dispenser of misery.

Misery-manufacturers

A judge of others, one who feels he is being constantly judged by others and is forced to lead an artificial existence because he fears criticism.

There are those who are unable to live their own lives without a "success example". They transfer this attitude to their own families. There is the father who insists on quoting other boys' achievements to his son, completely ignoring the fact that he himself was a failure at that age.

Trying to transmit your own faults and mistakes to others (such as the wife nagging her husband for being untidy, using it as a blind to cover her own shortcomings).

Those unable to enjoy a turn of good fortune. When it happens they think of their losses and consider that their luck compensates little for "life's cruel blows".

The fortune-seekers who try to utilise others; make contacts at parties to get into a better position socially or commercially. Even when they succeed there is little reward because they have denied themselves the pleasure of earning it.

Those who have a negative attitude towards everything—and towards themselves.

The question is now, why do people become a menace to their own and the happiness of others? Is this type of attitude a heritage passed down through generations, or a thing we acquire solely through our formative years? It can be either.

The guilt complex dictates that man must repent and suffer and consequently take the burden of unhappiness. Yet, the wisdom of the ancients add up to the formula for human happiness mapped out by our modern psychologists.

In the outlook and "inlook" in every one of us there are blind spots, caused by our tendency towards pride, lust, anger, gluttony and sloth. The balance of these tendencies varies in every individual. Most of us are not at all inclined to the majority of these sins but have to make efforts to avoid one or more of them. The awareness of these weaknesses differs, and so does the effort to resist.

There might be physical or mental reasons that transform our unhappy attitude into action, punishing ourselves as well as others. Whatever the cause, here are some simple rules that may lighten your burden and make for a better life.

Simple rules

TRUST those you love. Respect other people's opinions and property. Respect your own and other people's individuality and free will. Search for the cause of your unhappiness and the reason why you resent others being happy. Let yourself "go" within reason, and do not calculate the cost in thought, word or deed.

Don't be selfish in your relationship, seeking satisfaction and giving none. Accept sympathy but never pity from others. Do not indulge in sorrow for yourself.

Do not waste your time pondering over past mistakes and misfortunes. Do not indulge in self-worship. Only seek a bad motive for another person's action or words, after you have searched in vain for a good one; take positive action whenever possible. Do not nurture a persecution complex.

Half of our miseries come from want of courage to speak and hear the plain truth.

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Dresstitude!

WOMEN'S right to underestimate her age was revealed by a voter at a polling booth during the recent election

She was told by the polling official that, according to the rolls, her age was 30. When she said it was wrong, the polling officer enquired her age. While the lady said it was 20, an onlooker commented: "It is worse when you ask a woman her age."

No wonder a tactful husband has been defined as one who remembers his wife's birthday but forgets which one it is!

They say a man's age

commands veneration (Indian and Chinese philosophers) but a woman's demands tact. That is why a German thinker once said that a woman who tells the truth about her age, is not to be trusted! He also advocated that woman should not be allowed to swear as a witness in a law court

When a man celebrates birthday, he takes a day off, but when a woman does, she takes a year off.

When a woman begins to look her age, she struggles to overlook. Attractive at twenty, attentive at thirty and adhesive at forty. Many years from now, the dimpled darling of today

will be just a year older

The inability of women to admit their age is well illustrated by a story often told by Earl Wilson of a plump matron who confessed: "In this hat, I feel ten years younger", which elicited the question: "How old are you?" On the matron replying, "Thirty", came the hammerstroke: "I mean without the hat"

The right to conceal age is only one of the many fundamental rights woman has been demanding for long. In fact, if you want to get on with your job man, you better grant her every right.

Grant a woman the right to dress as she pleases. That is the only way to keep her away from folly. Eve gave birth to the necessity of dressing. A woman is never happier than when she is unhappy about which dress to wear, not because she has none but because she has more than one. Don't forget that woman always claims to be dresstitude!

Oscar Wilde, who has dug many "graves" with his acidic tongue, has one for woman also. Says he: "Woman's fashions may change but her designs always remain the same."

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E-Commerce: The New Wave—Part II

One of the many ways in which E-Commerce can impact current industrial order is in business to business commerce. Or simply put, transactions which happen between various business entities, as opposed to between the end consumer and a retailer or manufacturer.

A lot of focus till now has been on business to consumer transactions, i.e., you or your friends buying things over the Internet, instead of in the real world. This, of course, as we discussed last time, would impact a great deal on traditional business models, a case in point being IBM. This world's largest computer company decided to stop its sales of consumer PCs through its stores. Yes, sounds unbelievable, doesn't it? IBM has, instead, decided to focus purely on sales of its consumer PCs through the Internet. A lesson for all businesses who want to continue being in the retailing business.

However, relatively little attention has been paid in the media to a bigger revolution which is happening. And this one will beat business to consumer sales values by far. And that is, business to business transactions. All material and services move through various layers of middlemen, distributors, franchisees and agents. Conventional "net business" wisdom would lead us to believe that when E-Commerce has reached its cycle of efficiency, then all, or most of these middlemen would be wiped out. Although, we might like to believe this to be true, reality is quite different. In fact, the net has helped the middlemen to become more efficient and hence, pass on these benefits to the consumers. Traditional "bricks and mortar" companies are taking to the net like fish to water, and it is these very companies who are making net commerce happen.

Also, newer models of distribution on the net are sometimes even adding layers of middlemen rather than eliminating them. Because it is quite easy to set up a storefront on the web today (a storefront is a website which offers a few items for sale and accepts credit cards and other modes of payment), there are literally thousands and thousands of stores on the net. But getting the material or service to the client after he or she has placed the order through the storefront is quite another story. A new breed of cyber-distributors is emerging. These are distribution companies who simply accept orders from various online stores and then pass the orders to distributors in the real world, taking a commission as they do that. These cyber-distributors' strength lies in their ability to network with the distributors and ensure that the material reaches the end consumer in an efficient and safe manner. They would, probably, have very little or no inventory of their own. One example of such a cyber-distributor is Vstore (<http://www.vstore.com>). Vstore even helps you create your own storefront free of charge! So clearly, we are not talking of elimination of middlemen anytime soon. Rather, we are going to see them being strengthened and even added to the layers, as long as they recognize the efficiencies and changes in business models which E-Commerce is going to bring about. Therefore, business to business E-Commerce is here to stay, and it is really big!

The other aspect which is often ignored when talking of E-Commerce is the fact that people today, and perhaps will in the foreseeable future, continue to buy much more in the real world than through the net. Even pessimistic estimates put the amount of real world business over online business, in the next decade, to be at least fifteen to twenty times! Some entrepreneurs in the Silicon Valley realized this truth and have embarked on new business models to use this. And that simple model is to help people use the net to buy things in the real world. The idea is that people should use the Internet to research items they want to purchase, and make the actual purchase down at the local store!

Thus, we should reiterate what we had said last time. That E-Commerce will change the way people and companies do transactions, in ways which go beyond simply buying and selling things on the net.

This Month's URL List

Career:
<http://www.vstore.com>
 Overseas job opportunities for Indians. Set up by Overseas Employment Cell, Punjab

News/Entertainment:
<http://www.orientalstar.com>
 A new online portal. Organized by region.

Corporate:
<http://www.bajajauto.com>
 Web Site of Bajaj Auto Limited.

Indian:
<http://www.theindian.com>
 One of India's premier Engineering Institutes

Off the beaten track:
<http://www.mysite.com>
 Even more homepages for you!

I am a student of engineering. After reading your magazine I am inspired to achieve success in a big way, but I lack confidence. What can I do?

—Hishree Samant Sirhar,
Bhubaneswar

Yours is a common situation, but not something which cannot be overcome. First of all, you have to learn to think positively. Think of the small things that you have been able to accomplish. You will develop confidence step by step, first by achieving small things and then taking on big things. Mix around with friends and stop thinking about your limitations. Read some good books, such as "How to Stop Worrying and Start Living" by Dale Carnegie and "You Can Win" by Shiv Khera. Slowly, you will find that you are developing confidence and will be ready to face the world.

What is GATE?

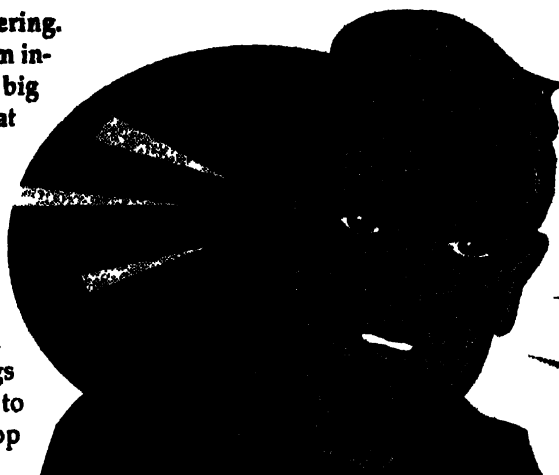
—Harsh Singh, Bareilly

The Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) is a test for higher studies in engineering and technology areas. Its eligibility is BE, B.Sc or integrated master's degree. The test is usually held in February every year.

I am a Commerce graduate and want to do MCA from a regular university. Which universities permit this and which institutes can I apply to?

—Lalit Mohan Vashistha, New Delhi

The eligibility for most MCA courses is Maths upto class 12. This is important since developing computer programs calls for a high degree of analytical skills. You have not written whether you had maths in class 12 or not, so you can assess your eligibility better. There are some universities and private institutes which may accept admissions even from people without maths, but the quality of such institutes is doubtful and it may be difficult to get a job after getting a degree. As regards the different universities offering MCA,



Can I learn different programming languages on the computer at home with good quality textbooks?

—Joydip Chaudhuri,
Calcutta

Alongwith textbooks, you will also need software to run the languages. Once you have this software and books, learning languages at home is not a problem.

I have heard that IGNOU's materials are helpful

for Civil Services Exams. Is that true?

—Sagarika Panda, Bhubaneswar

For the Civil Services Examination, you need a wide variety of material. The booklets of IGNOU, alongwith other textbooks, are fairly useful for the Civil Services Examination.

I am a student of engineering. After graduation, what should I do: ME, MCA or MBA?

—Deepmala Singh, Jamshedpur

The three options described by you are quite different from each other but since you have not written any criteria of choice, we can only say that you should do what you have interest in. If you are interested in computers, do MCA but if you are interested in business, do MBA. Since you have already done BE, you know what ME would entail. So you are the best judge about the courses you want to take up.

I have taken two competitive exams. At home I am able to solve 90% of the problems but in the examination, I can just do 50%. How can I overcome this?

—Subroto Choudhury, Purulia (WB)

Yours is a common problem. Most of us can work leisurely but are unable to perform under pressure. You can overcome this problem by imposing on yourself the same conditions as in an examination hall. Give yourself only as much time as you will be allowed. By doing a number of tests in this manner,

please refer to our 'Admission Alert' column, which features admission notices as and when they are announced.

I want to run an English medium school. Will I get aid and other benefits from missionary (Christian) trusts or institutions?

—Sunil Sharma, Sardar Shahar
(Rajasthan)

It is doubtful that you will get any aid from anywhere, since missionary trusts run their own schools and do not give aid. However, you can visit some missionary organisations and find out the details. This said, it is strange that you should seek aid from anywhere to run a school. Why don't you want to be independent? You have to discard your mentality of seeking help from others, if you want to succeed in life.

Is the MBA by correspondence considered at par with a regular MBA of a premier institute?

—Sushanta Kumar Jena, Puri
(Orissa)

No. An MBA from a premier institute has no equal. Correspondence MBA degrees are useful for working executives who want to enhance their knowledge. Some organisations give promotions on the basis of an enhanced qualification but finding a job on the basis of a correspondence degree may be troublesome.

you will develop the habit of solving the paper under pressure. You will also develop the speed required for competitive exams.

What are GDRs? Why are they gaining popularity among Indian companies?

—*Mcenu Malhotra, Amritsar*

The Global Depository Receipt (GDRs) are loans obtained from other countries. They are becoming popular because large amounts of funds can be raised, and the interest rate may be slightly less than in the domestic market.

What is Falun Gong? Why has it been banned in China?

—*Ankan Ghosh, Calcutta*

Falun Gong is a sect in China guided by Li Hongzhi. He teaches a blend of Buddhist, Taoist and mystical beliefs. He has an estimated 70 million followers in China. The sect has the proven ability to organise large scale, but peaceful protests. In today's China, in which there is large-scale poverty and unemployment, Falun Gong has attracted many members. This has unnerved the ruling Communist Party, which has held strict control over the people for many years. That is the reason that China has cracked down on Falun Gong.

Why did the Vietnam war take place?

—*Jitu Changmai, Jorhat (Assam)*

The Vietnam War was a conflict between the South Vietnamese government forces backed by the USA, and communist guerilla insurgents, the Vietcong, who were backed by North Vietnam. The country had been divided at the 17th Parallel between the Communists (North) and Nationalists (South). Ngo Dinh Diem, the South Vietnam Premier, cancelled national elections and declared the South independent in 1956. The Vietnam Cong San, or Vietcong, was formed to oppose his corrupt regime. Under the US-South Vietnamese military and economic aid treaty, the USA sent its forces but the large-scale US campaign was unable to do more than hold back the Vietcong. The war spread to Cambodia and Laos before ceasefire was signed in 1973. The US withdrew its forces and the South was overrun by Vietcong. With the fall of Saigon in 1975, the war officially ended. The Vietnam war was perhaps the biggest failure of US foreign policy.

In competitive interviews, questions about hobbies are asked. Which hobby should I say I have?

—*Atul Vaish, Allahabad (UP)*

It is true that questions about hobbies are asked in interviews. It is important to develop a hobby rather than preparing one for the interview. The interviewer can usually see through the bluff if you say something though you may have not done it. For example, if you say your hobby is gardening, the next question could be about the size of the garden, which would be difficult to answer. Our advice is to develop a good hobby—gardening, stamp collecting, radio-listening, dress designing and clay modelling. Please note that listening to music, driving, travelling and sleeping can hardly be said to be good hobbies.

U.K. Education Aids (UKEA)

UKEA is proud to relaunch a unique concept that provides the students an opportunity to study abroad, to boost their career in a country where there are no limitation of courses offered by the Universities and familiarises them with the infrastructure which they are not aware of.

UKEA with the patronage of ECS (Educational Counselling Services) of the British Council of India has selected universities abroad very carefully and possesses a dynamic, experienced and a professionally management team that looks after every possible need of a student wanting to study abroad.

They have already tied up with six leading universities in the U.K. which are:

1. The University of Aberdeen
2. Napier University
3. The Sheffield College
4. The Hammersmith and West London College
5. The Chichester College
6. The Leeds College of Arts and Design

The main services of UKEA, as an Institute are:

1. To provide professional and technical counselling so as to assess the ability of the student and enable him to choose the right course.
2. To provide sufficient know how to students about the education structure and the Institutes in the UK through audio-visuals and university brochures.
3. To recommend and process the applications with the respective universities or colleges.
4. To familiarise students with the best professional career prospects available to them in the global market place.
5. To promote cultural activities and interaction among universities and colleges in the UK with those in India.

PIE Education

Initiated by technocrats in January 1999, PIE education has already established an enviable position today. As a premier institution that provides the highest quality of education, it has been awarded the prestigious ISO 9001 certification.

In a period of just a few months, PIE achieved a number of selections from the crash course (in the month of March/April) and has set up five centres (South Delhi, North Delhi, West Delhi, Faridabad and Jaipur) and is looking forward to another five by the end of this year.

PIE education offers its students more than the basic study requirements. Comfortable A/C classrooms, dustless chalks, magnetic boards provide a conducive environment for concentration and learning. Experienced faculty and a restricted 30 students per class ensure expert guidance with personal attention to all students.

Students preparing for IIT-JEE get the benefit of the latest trends and format. Regular practice test and post test analysis help maintain a dynamic pace of studying.

PIE education now plans to branch out and start training for various other competitive examinations also and eventually expand the network of centres across the nation.

CIVIL SERVICES (MAINS) SPECIAL

Styles

Standard English may be formal, informal, or colloquial. Each of these is appropriate to particular purposes, and when it is appropriate, it is correct

The differences between the levels are essentially stylistic. Just as different social occasions call for different styles of clothing, so different writing purposes require different styles of writing. The writer's obligation is to select the style appropriate to his particular purpose.

Before we can profitably discuss these styles, it is necessary to consider five classes of words into which the vocabularies can be divided. These are popular words, learned words, idiomatic, colloquialisms, and slang.

A great part of the vocabulary consists of words which are common to the speech of educated and uneducated speakers alike. These words are the basic elements of language.

They are indispensable for everyday communication, and by means of them people from widely different social levels are able to speak a common language. These are called popular words.

Contrasted with these are words which we read more often than we hear, and write more often than we speak—words more widely used by educated than by uneducated people, and more likely to be used on formal than on informal occasions. These we call learned words.

Learned words are usually imported from a foreign language and, at first, retain their foreign pronunciations, meanings, and grammatical forms.

If they become so useful that they pass into the vocabulary of all classes, they lose their foreign characteristics and become Anglicized or naturalized.

In the process of being naturalized they usually pass through a transitional

stage when both the foreign and the naturalized uses are common (data are—data is; detour—detour; flair meaning “capacity to detect” and also “having a knack for”)

When the new uses begin to be popular they are often denounced as “mistakes”, but when the process of naturalization is complete, the learned words, in their new uses, become part of the popular vocabulary

Language contains a host of expressions which are not subject to logical analysis but are so characteristic that until one has learned to use them naturally he has not mastered the language. These expressions are called idioms.

Unless one has learned the language as a native, they are often difficult to use. For example, one who has learned what hard and up mean in English will still be puzzled by the phrase hard up.

A Frenchman to whom the greeting “How do you carry yourself?” seems the most natural kind of expression will be

puzzled by “How do you do?”

Idioms are traditional rather than logical, they can be learned only by experience, not by rule. There is, for example, no rule that will tell us in advance what verbs will govern what prepositions. We say aim at, abide by, account for, arise from, and adhere to.

The meaning of a verb may be no clue to its meaning in an idiomatic verb-adverb combination. A dictionary definition of get will be little use in such phrases as get ahead, get by, get over. It is this arbitrary nature of idioms that causes trouble.

Idioms are mostly made up of popular words. They are used by all classes of people and are common to both standard and non-standard speech.

Often a particular idiom may be replaced by a more learned word. Thus “periodically” may be used for “every now and then” and “eradicate” for “rub out”. Whether such substitution is advisable will depend on the formality or informality of the style.

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English Language

N.D.A. Examination held on 20th June, 1999

COMPREHENSION

Directions:

In this Section you have four short passages. After each passage you will find several questions based on the passage. First, read Passage I, and answer the questions based on it. Then go on to the other passages.

Examples 'I' and 'J' are solved for you
Passage

In our approach to life, be it pragmatic or otherwise, a basic fact that confronts us squarely and unmistakably is the desire for peace, security and happiness. Different forms of life at different levels of existence make up the teeming denizens of this earth of ours. And, no matter whether they belong to the higher groups such as human beings or to the lower groups such as animals, all beings primarily seek peace, comfort and security. Life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to a man. Even the lowliest insect strives for protection against dangers that threaten its life. Just as each one of us wants to live and not to die, so do all other creatures.

I. The author's main point is that:

- (a) different forms of life are found on earth
- (b) different levels of existence are possible in nature
- (c) peace and security are the chief goals of all living beings
- (d) even the weakest creature struggles to preserve its life

J. Which one of the following assumptions or steps is essential in developing the author's position?

- (a) All forms of life have a single overriding goal
- (b) The will to survive of a creature is identified with a desire for peace
- (c) All beings are divided into higher and lower groups
- (d) A parallel is drawn between happiness and life, and pain and death

Explanation:

I. The idea which represents the author's main point is 'peace and security are the chief goals of all living beings', which is response (c). So 'c' is the correct answer.

J. The best assumption underlying the passage is 'The will to survive of a creature is identified with a desire for peace', which is response (b). So 'b' is the correct answer.

Passage I

Most people are afraid of snakes but their fear is as irrational as the fear of ghosts. The fear of snakes, according to some biologists, may be an instinct passed on to us by our ancestors. There may be some truth in this theory, because monkeys have a deep, instinctive fear of pythons and other tree snakes. Or, it might be that we learn the fear of snakes as children, from grown ups. Anyway, snakes have been feared and hated for thousands of years, and in the literature of many countries, the snake is regarded as a symbol of evil.

1. The fear of snakes is prevalent among:

- (a) young children
- (b) women
- (c) old men
- (d) almost all

2. Fear of snakes is a sign of:

- (a) madness
- (b) cowardice
- (c) irrationality
- (d) superstition

3. The writer tries to justify his views on the basis of:

- (a) religious truths
- (b) scientific explanations
- (c) imaginary ideas
- (d) historic evidences

Passage II

The movement for women's liberation in its present strident form is comparatively recent in India. It is still far from being a mass movement, being confined mainly to urban areas where small groups of edu-

cated middle and upper middle class women have taken the lead. Yet certain weaknesses are already beginning to surface, and what began as a serious attempt to gain for women a more equal status is in danger of losing its moorings.

4. "Moorings" in the passage means:

- (a) position of authority
- (b) legal standing
- (c) social bondage
- (d) secure position

5. The movement for women's liberation

- (a) has an extraordinarily large number of followers
- (b) is restricted to the middle class people of the rural areas
- (c) is mainly to be seen among small groups of educated people living in a town or city
- (d) has spread widely in all cities and villages

6. The weakness in women's liberation movement has resulted in:

- (a) alienating the men
- (b) alienating the urban women from the rural
- (c) failing to gain equality for women
- (d) failing to become a mass movement

Passage III

Without causing any pollution in the form of suffocating fumes and ear splitting explosions the bicycle converts energy into motion and, that too, more efficiently than any other machine. For the first time since the appearance of motor cars, the bicycle is seen today as a more attractive means of transport. Improved technology, combined with heightened interest in the environment, the outdoors and physical fitness, have transformed the image of bicycling in Europe and America into a fashionable and healthy activity. Cycling is a form of sport that enables people to rediscover nature. The ATB (all-terrain-bike) is used

in riding to the top of mountains and in cross-country races. Riding an ATB is a great way of keeping fit, and it is quieter than walking. The cyclist hears no sound of the tyres on the path and is free to watch the flora and fauna while having a joyride with friends.

7 The image of the bicycle has changed mainly because of

- (a) improved technology and fashion
- (b) interest in environment and physical fitness
- (c) physical fitness and fashion
- (d) its noiselessness and smoke-free operation

8 The bicycle is a machine which

- (a) converts physical energy into motion easily
- (b) requires as much energy as a motor car
- (c) is not as good as a motor car for sight seeing
- (d) is not in fashion these days

9 Riding an ATB is quieter than walking because

- (a) its tyres produce no sound while moving along the path
- (b) its tyres do not touch the ground
- (c) it has a very slow speed
- (d) walking shoes are noisy

Passage IV

I have said enough to you about the fact that no two native speakers of English speak it alike, but perhaps you are clever enough to ask me whether I, myself, speak it in the same way.

I must confess that I do not. Nobody does. I am at present speaking to an audience of many thousands of phonologists, many of whom are trying hard to follow my words, syllable by syllable. If I were to speak to you as carelessly as I speak to my wife at home, this record would be useless, and if I were to speak to my wife at home as carefully as I am speaking to you, she would think that I was going mad.

10 English is spoken by different people

- (a) very fluently
- (b) syllable by syllable
- (c) in different ways
- (d) without being understood by some

11 The writer speaks carelessly to his wife because

- (a) she does not need to follow his words syllable by syllable
- (b) she is not highly educated
- (c) he does not take her seriously
- (d) she does not listen to him

12 The writer does not always speak in the same way because

- (a) no one will understand him otherwise
- (b) of his attitude to people spoken to
- (c) of the different reactions of his audience
- (d) of the activity speaking depends upon the people to whom he speaks

ORDERING OF WORDS IN A SENTENCE

Directions

In the following items some parts of the sentence have been jumbled up. You are required to rearrange these parts which are labelled P, Q, R and S to produce the correct sentence. Choose the proper sequence and mark in your Answer Sheet accordingly.

Example 1

It is well known that (P) the effect (Q) is very bad (R) on children (S) of cinema.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P S R Q
- (b) S P Q R
- (c) S R P Q
- (d) Q S R P

Explanation: The proper way of writing the sentence is: It is well-known that the effect of cinema on children is very bad. This is indicated by the sequence P S R Q and so (a) is the correct answer.

13 The character of the upright man (P) he takes his stand upon (Q) and when all else fails (R) shines forth most brightly in misfortune (S) his integrity and his courage.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) R Q S P
- (b) S R Q P
- (c) R Q P S
- (d) S P Q R

14 Men of character are not only the conscience of society (P) of a well-governed state (Q) but also the best motive power (R) which rule the world (S) for it is moral qualities, in the main.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) Q P R S
- (b) S R Q P
- (c) R P S Q
- (d) Q P S R

15 In a fitting finale to his superb performance (P) deservedly drove in an

Opel Astra (Q) in the Coca Cola Cup Cricket Tournament at Sharjah (R) who lifted his nation up to the pinnacle of glory (S) young Tendulkar.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) S R P Q
- (b) R S P Q
- (c) S R Q P
- (d) R Q S P

16 The fear that conscience would feel guilty (P) or disappointing others (Q) as it prevents people (R) exerts a civilizing influence (S) from cheating.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) R Q P S
- (b) R Q S P
- (c) Q S P R
- (d) S P Q R

17 From the high balcony of my flat (P) and envied their enthusiasm (Q) over the heads of their companions (R) as they soared high (S) I had noticed the young dare devil pilots.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) R Q S P
- (b) S R P Q
- (c) R Q P S
- (d) S P R Q

ORDERING OF SENTENCES

Directions

In the following items each passage consists of six sentences. The first and the sixth sentence are given in the beginning. The middle four sentences in each have been removed and jumbled up. These are labelled P, Q, R and S. You are required to find out the proper sequence of the four sentences and mark accordingly on the Answer Sheet.

Example

S₁ A poor peasant went off early one morning to plough, taking with him for his breakfast a piece of bread.

S₆ He lifted the coat, but the bread was gone!

P After a while, when his horse was tired and he was hungry, the peasant stopped ploughing.

Q He hid it under a bush and started work.

R He went to get his coat and his breakfast.

S He got his plough ready and put his coat round the bread.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) S Q P R
- (b) Q P R S
- (c) P R S Q
- (d) R S Q P

Explanation: The proper sequence in this example is S Q P R, which is marked (a). Therefore, 'a' is the correct answer.

18. S₁: There is an enemy beneath our feet—an enemy the more deadly for his complete impartiality.

S₂: The power of an earthquake is greater than anything man himself can produce.

P: The enemy is the Earth itself.

Q: He recognizes no national boundaries, no political parties.

R: When an earthquake comes, the whole world trembles.

S: Everyone in the world is threatened by him.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) S R Q P (b) Q S P R
(c) P R S Q (d) Q S R P

19. S₁: On entering the hut Jim Corbett first picked Kunwar Singh up and laid him on a string bed.

S₂: Jim Corbett then asked Kunwar Singh's eldest son to warm two sears of fresh milk and bring it to him as soon as possible.

P: This eased the situation inside the room and the fresh air from the jungle revived Kunwar.

Q: He then threw open the only window of the room to let fresh air in.

R: His breathing became less laboured and more regular.

S: He then sent the mourners, and the priest away too.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P R Q S (b) Q R P S
(c) P Q R S (d) Q S P R

20. S₁: If we dump sewage into a stream, on a small scale, the stream dissolves it and purifies it.

S₂: For this overwhelming kind of pollution we need a new term.

P: The system has broken down.

Q: Ten miles downstream the water is pure again.

R: It can no longer deal even with the small quantity of sewage which it once accepted without difficulty.

S: But if we dump large quantities of sewage, we end by killing the purifying bacteria and then the stream has lost its power to purify.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P Q R S (b) Q S R P
(c) P R S Q (d) Q P R S

21. S₁: The first day out we met our first rhino, two of them, and I had the fright

of my life.

S₂: It did not strike us as a good opportunity for rhino photography.

P: Being bad-tempered beasts, they rushed towards us where they thought we were.

Q: As they thundered past, we crouched low and let them go.

R: The pair had got our scent before we spotted them.

S: It just happened that we were about fifty yards to one side of where they expected to find us.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) S R Q P (b) R P S Q
(c) S P R Q (d) R S Q P

22. S₁: When I got to the airport, I learnt that the plane from Cairo, on which my brother was travelling, had been delayed at Paris with engine trouble and was expected to be about an hour late.

S₂: I made my way to the restaurant, where I ordered a cup of black coffee.

P: First of all I went back to the place where I had left my car to make sure that all the doors were locked.

Q: I decided, therefore, to walk around to make the time pass quickly.

R: As a rule I can pass the time quite happily, watching the planes land and take off, but that evening I had a headache, which I thought that the noise of the engines might make worse.

S: The walk in the fresh air did me good, for I felt slightly better as I entered the main airport building again.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) R P Q S (b) P S Q R
(c) P Q S R (d) R Q P S

SELECTING WORDS

Directions:

In the following passage at certain points you are given a choice of three words—one of which is most appropriate. Choose the best word out of the three. Mark the letter, viz., 'a', 'b' or 'c' relating to this word on your Answer Sheet.

Examples 'K' and 'L' have been solved for you.

K. The river has been

- (a) rising
(b) raising
(c) arising

all night.

L. We built the raft

- (a) too strong
(b) very strong
(c) strong enough

to hold us.

Out of the list given in 'K' only 'rising' is the correct answer because a river cannot be raised, it rises on its own. So 'a' is the correct answer for item 'K'. For item 'L', 'c' is the correct answer. In order to solve these items you have to first read the whole passage and then decide what the most appropriate word is.

Many of us do not realise how radically our position in the world has altered. Political freedom has given us the great opportunity and the sacred responsibility of building up a new India free from want and disease, rid of the curse of the:

23. (a) rich
(b) poor
(c) caste

and the outcaste, where women will

24. (a) forfeit
(b) enjoy
(c) receive

the same rights as men and

25. (a) while
(b) where
(c) always

we shall live at peace

26. (a) from
(b) along
(c) with

the rest of the world. The

27. (a) inspiration
(b) vision
(c) creation

of such an India should sustain

28. (a) us
(b) you
(c) all

in our work ahead.

Spotting Errors

Directions:

(i) In this Section 6 sentences are given. Each sentence has three parts, indicated by (a), (b) and (c). Read each sentence to find out whether there is an error. If you find an error in any one of the parts (a, b, c), indicate your response by blackening the letter related to that part in the Answer Sheet provided. If a

sentence has no error, indicate this by blackening 'd' which stands for "No error"

(ii) Errors may belong to grammar, usage or idiom

Examples P and Q have been solved for you

P My friend and myself(a) study together(b) during holidays (c) No error (d)

Q The rice from Dehradun is(a) more superior(b) to that of Saharanpur (c) No error (d)

The correct answer for P is letter 'd' because the sentence has no mistake in it. The correct answer for Q is 'b' because the mistake in the sentence is in the part carrying the letter 'b'

29 Driving a vehicle on the busy roads(a) require care and skill(b) to avoid accidents (c) No error (d)

30 He has been away in America(u) for more than a decade and a half.(b) and I don't think he will return back to India (c) No error (d)

31 We Indians are(a) firmly wedded in the(b) democratic way of life (c) No error (d)

32 I am playing foot-ball for my school(a) for the last three years(b) without ever being dropped for any important match (c) No error (d)

33 The reason why he could not come and attend the meeting was(a) because his car broke down on the way.(b) and he had to wait inordinately before it was set right (c) No error (d)

34 They did not want the impression to go round(a) that they had climbed down over their demand(b) and had settled for less (c) No error (d)

Sentence Improvement

Directions:

Look at the underlined part of each sentence. Below each sentence are given three possible substitutions for the underlined part. If one of them (a), (b) or (c) is better than the underlined part, indicate your response on the Answer Sheet against the corresponding letter (a), (b) or (c). If none of the substitutions improve the sentence, indicate (d) as your response on the Answer Sheet. Thus a 'No improvement' response will be signified by the letter (d).

Examples R and S have been solved for you

R The young child sung a very sweet song

- (a) singed the
- (b) singed
- (c) sang a
- (d) No improvement

S I have already read this book twice

- (a) I already twice have read this book
- (b) I twice have already read this book
- (c) I have twice already read this book
- (d) No improvement

Explanation

R For item R, the correct sentence should read, "The young child sang a very sweet song' 'c' is therefore, the correct answer

S Item S is a correct sentence. None of the changes suggested will improve it 'd' is therefore, the correct answer

Errors may be in grammar, appropriate word usage or idioms. There may be a necessary word missing or there may be a word which should be removed

35 He would have sanctioned my leave if I applied a week earlier

- (a) I have applied
- (b) I had applied
- (c) I would have applied
- (d) No improvement

36 The law will not tolerate a criminal act on the plea that the culprit is illiterate

- (a) condone
- (b) condole
- (c) ignore
- (d) No improvement

37 The boys lost the game, wasn't it?

- (a) isn't it?
- (b) aren't they?
- (c) didn't they?
- (d) No improvement

38 He seldom or ever loses his temper

- (a) seldom, or never
- (b) seldom, nor ever
- (c) seldom, if ever
- (d) No improvement

39 He entered into the room without taking permission

- (a) entered in
- (b) entered
- (c) entered inside
- (d) No improvement

40 He is too tall to touch the ceiling

- (a) very tall
- (b) enough tall
- (c) tall enough
- (d) No improvement

Synonyms

Directions:

In this Section you find a number of sentences, parts of which are underlined. You may also find only a group of words which is underlined. For each underlined part, four words/phrases are listed below. Choose the word/phrase nearest in meaning to the underlined part

Example F' is solved for you

F His style is quite transparent

- (a) verbose
- (b) involved
- (c) lucid
- (d) witty

Explanation In item 'E' the word 'lucid' is nearest in meaning to the word "transparent". So 'c' is the correct answer

41 He delivered a lengthy speech in which he committed several ludicrous mistakes

- (a) glaring
- (b) funny
- (c) absurd
- (d) serious

42 The performance of the candidates was deplorable

- (a) horrible
- (b) contentious
- (c) laughable
- (d) lamentable

43 Timely first aid resuscitated the patient

- (a) soothed
- (b) rescued
- (c) revived
- (d) cured

44 Outside I am nothing but a frolicsome little goat who's broken loose

- (a) happy
- (b) playful
- (c) gay
- (d) delightful

45 He was accused of graft.

- (a) corruption
- (b) inefficiency
- (c) favouritism
- (d) negligence

OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

Antonyms

Directions:

In this Section each item consists of a word or a phrase which is underlined in the sentence given. It is followed by four words or phrases. Select the word or phrase which is closest to the *opposite* in meaning of the underlined word or phrase.

Example "F" has been solved for you

1. Lucy is a smart girl

- (a) lazy
- (b) active
- (c) indecent
- (d) casual

Explanation: The word "lazy" is nearest to the opposite in meaning of the word "smart". So 'a' is the correct answer.

46. The principal depreciated the attitude of some student leaders.

- (a) appreciated
- (b) tolerated

- (c) derided
- (d) ignored

47. Many of the incidents in the autobiography appear to be fictitious.

- (a) imaginary
- (b) real
- (c) creative
- (d) boring

48. The hall was packed with people who had come to hear the celebrated author speak about his work.

- (a) obscure
- (b) well-known
- (c) ordinary
- (d) up-coming

49. We solicit your co-operation.

- (a) acknowledge
- (b) reject
- (c) refute
- (d) cherish

50. He is known for his arrogance.

- (a) honesty
- (b) cheerfulness

- (c) generosity
- (d) humility

ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| 1. (d) | 2. (c) | 3. (b) | 4. (d) |
| 5. (c) | 6. (d) | 7. (c) | 8. (a) |
| 9. (a) | 10. (c) | 11. (a) | 12. (d) |
| 13. (c) | 14. (d) | 15. (a) | 16. (b) |
| 17. (d) | 18. (b) | 19. (b) | 20. (b) |
| 21. (b) | 22. (a) | 23. (c) | 24. (b) |
| 25. (b) | 26. (c) | 27. (b) | 28. (a) |
| 29. (b) | 'requires care and skill' | | |
| 30. (c) | '.. will return to India' | | |
| 31. (b) | 'firmly wedded to the' | | |
| 32. (a) | 'I have been playing football...' | | |
| 33. (d) | No error | | |
| 34. (c) | 'and settled for less' | | |
| 35. (b) | 36. (a) | 37. (c) | 38. (a) |
| 39. (b) | 40. (d) | 41. (c) | 42. (d) |
| 43. (c) | 44. (b) | 45. (a) | 46. (b) |
| 47. (b) | 48. (a) | 49. (b) | 50. (d) |

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Quantitative Aptitude

Staff Selection Commission (Combined) Preliminary Exam
(Graduate Level) 1999 held on 4.7.99

Questions 1-50 were published in November issue. Balance questions alongwith answers are given below:

51. By which smallest number should 5808 be multiplied so that it becomes a perfect square?

- (a) 2 (b) 7
(c) 11 (d) 3

52. The least number which when divided by 4, 6, 8, 12 and 16 leaves a remainder of 2 in each case is.

- (a) 46 (b) 48
(c) 50 (d) 56

53. Sum of two numbers is 40 and their product is 375. What will be the sum of their reciprocals?

- (a) $\frac{8}{75}$ (b) $\frac{1}{40}$
(c) $\frac{75}{8}$ (d) $\frac{75}{4}$

54. The product of the LCM and HCF of two numbers is 24. The difference of the two numbers is 2. Find the numbers.

- (a) 8 and 6 (b) 8 and 10
(c) 2 and 4 (d) 6 and 4

55. In a class, $\frac{3}{5}$ of the students are girls and rest are boys.

If $\frac{2}{9}$ of the girls and $\frac{1}{4}$ of the boys are absent, what parts of the total number of students are present?

- (a) $\frac{23}{30}$ (b) $\frac{23}{36}$
(c) $\frac{18}{49}$ (d) $\frac{17}{25}$

56. Two numbers differ by 5. If their product is 336, the sum of the two numbers is:

- (a) 21 (b) 28
(c) 37 (d) 51

57. The maximum number of students among whom 1001 pens and 910 pencils can be distributed in such a way that each student gets same number of pens and same number of pencils is:

- (a) 91 (b) 910
(c) 1001 (d) 1911

58. Unit digit in $(264)^{102} + (264)^{101}$ is.

- (a) 0 (b) 4
(c) 6 (d) 8

59. Which one of the following

$\sqrt{3}$, $\sqrt[3]{2}$, $\sqrt{2}$ and $\sqrt[3]{4}$

- (a) $\sqrt{2}$ (b) $\sqrt[3]{4}$
(c) $\sqrt{3}$ (d) $\sqrt[3]{2}$

60. A person who spends $66\frac{2}{3}\%$ of his income is able to save Rs 1,200 per month. His monthly expenses (in Rs) is:

- (a) 1,200 (b) 2,400
(c) 3,000 (d) 3,200

61. If 80% of A = 50% of B and B = x% of A, then the value of x is:

- (a) 400 (b) 300
(c) 160 (d) 150

62. If x is 80% of y, what per cent of x is y?

- (a) 75% (b) 80%
(c) 100% (d) 125%

63. In a town, the population was 8000. In one year, male population increased by 10% and female population increased by 8% but the total population increased by 9%. The number of males in the town was

- (a) 4000 (b) 4500
(c) 5000 (d) 6000

64. In an examination, there were 1000 boys and 800 girls. 60% of the boys and 50% of the girls passed. Find the per cent of the candidates failed:

- (a) 46.4 (b) 48.4
(c) 44.4 (d) 49.6

65. If A exceeds B by 40%, B is less than C by 20%, then A : C is:

- (a) 28 : 25 (b) 26 : 25
(c) 3 : 2 (d) 3 : 1

66. Price of sugar rises by 20%. By how much per cent should the consumption of sugar be reduced so that the expenditure does not change?

- (a) 20 (b) 10
(c) $16\frac{2}{3}$ (d) 15

67. In a school 70% of the students are girls. The number of boys are 510. Then the total number of students in the school is:

- (a) 850 (b) 1700
(c) 1830 (d) 1900

68. Applied to a bill for Rs 1,00,000 the difference between a discount of 40% and two successive discounts of 36% and 4%

- (a) Rs 2,500 (d) Rs 4,000

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

69 A tradesman marks his goods 10% above his cost price. If he allows his customers 10% discount on the marked price, how much profit or loss does he make, if any?

- (a) 1% gain (b) 1% loss
(c) 5% gain (d) No gain, no loss

70 A discount of 15% on one article is the same as a discount of 20% on a second article. The costs of the two articles can be

- (a) Rs 85, Rs 60 (b) Rs 60, Rs 40
(c) Rs 40, Rs 20 (d) Rs 80, Rs 60

71 An agent gets a commission of 2.5% on the sales of cloth. If on a certain day, he gets Rs 12.50 as commission, the cloth sold through him on that day is worth

- (a) Rs 250 (b) Rs 500
(c) Rs 750 (d) Rs 1250

72 A sum of money doubles itself at compound interest in 15 years. In how many years it will become eight times?

- (a) 30 (b) 45
(c) 50 (d) 60

73 Compound interest (compounded annually) on a certain sum of money for 2 years at 4% per annum is Rs 102. The simple interest on the same sum for the same rate and for the same period will be

- (a) Rs 99 (b) Rs 101
(c) Rs 100 (d) Rs 98

74 A sum of money becomes $\frac{7}{6}$ of itself in 3 years at a certain rate of simple interest. The rate per annum is

- (a) $5\frac{5}{9}\%$ (b) $6\frac{5}{9}\%$
(c) 18% (d) 25%

75 The simple interests on a certain sum at 5% per annum for 3 years and 4 years differ by Rs 42. The sum is

- (a) Rs 210 (b) Rs 280
(c) Rs 750 (d) Rs 840

76 Oranges are bought at 7 for Rs 3. At what rate per hundred must they be sold to gain 33%?

- (a) Rs 56 (b) Rs 60
(c) Rs 58 (d) Rs 57

77 The cost price of 36 books is equal to the selling price of 30 books. The gain is

- (a) 20% (b) $16\frac{4}{6}\%$
(c) 18% (d) $8\frac{2}{6}\%$

78 A man wanted to sell an article with 20% profit, but he actually sold at 20% loss for Rs 480. At what price he wanted to sell it to earn the profit?

- (a) Rs 720 (b) Rs 840
(c) Rs 600 (d) Rs 750

79 A person sells two machines at Rs 396 each. On one he gains 10% and on the other he loses 10%. His profit or loss in the whole transaction is

- (a) no gain, no loss (b) 1% loss

(c) 1% profit

(d) 8% profit

80 A trader bought 10 kg of apples for Rs 405 out of which 1 kg of apples were found to be rotten. If he wishes to make a profit of 10%, at what rate should he sell the remaining apples per kg?

- (a) Rs 45 (b) Rs 49.50
(c) Rs 50 (d) Rs 51

81 If $a : b = 7 : 9$ and $b : c = 15 : 7$, then what is $a : c$?

- (a) 5 : 3 (b) 3 : 5
(c) 7 : 21 (d) 7 : 15

82 By mistake, instead of dividing Rs 117 among A, B and C in the ratio $\frac{1}{2} : \frac{1}{3} : \frac{1}{4}$, it was divided in the ratio of 2 : 3 : 4. Who gains the most and by how much?

- (a) A, Rs 28 (b) B, Rs 3
(c) C, Rs 20 (d) C, Rs 25

83 A and B have money in the ratio 2 : 1. If A gives Rs 2 to B, the money will be in the ratio 1 : 1. What were the initial amounts they had?

- (a) Rs 12 and Rs 6
(b) Rs 16 and Rs 8
(c) Rs 8 and Rs 4
(d) Rs 6 and Rs 3

84 The incomes of A, B and C are in the ratio 3 : 7 : 4 and their expenses in the ratio 4 : 3 : 5. If A saves Rs 300 out of an income of Rs 2,400, the savings of B and C are

- (a) Rs 4,025 and Rs 575
(b) Rs 1,575 and Rs 2,625
(c) Rs 2,750 and Rs 1,025
(d) Rs 3,725 and Rs 1,525

85 An 85 m long rod is divided into two parts. If one part is $\frac{2}{3}$ of the other part, then the longer part (in metres) is

- (a) 34 (b) $56\frac{2}{3}$
(c) 85 (d) 51

86 A student was asked to find the arithmetic mean of the following 12 numbers

3, 11, 7, 9, 15, 13, 8, 19, 17, 21, 14 and x

He found the mean to be 12. The value of x will be

- (a) 3 (b) 7 (c) 17 (d) 31

87 A company produces an average of 4000 items per month for the first 3 months. How much items, it must produce on an average per month over the next 9 months, to average 4375 items per month over the whole year?

- (a) 4500 (b) 4600
(c) 4680 (d) 4710

88 The average of five numbers is 27. If one number is excluded, the average becomes 25. The excluded number is

- (a) 25 (b) 27
(c) 30 (d) 35

89 The average of the marks obtained in an examination by 8 students was 51 and by 9 other students was 68. The average marks of the 17 students was

- (a) 59 (b) 59.5
(c) 60 (d) 60.5

90. If the length of the diagonal AC of a square ABCD is 5.2 cm, then the area of the square is:

- (a) 15.12 sq cm (b) 13.52 sq cm
(c) 12.62 sq cm (d) 10.00 sq cm

91. If diagonal of a cube is $\sqrt{12}$ cm, then its volume in cubic cm is:

- (a) 8 (b) 12
(c) 24 (d) $3\sqrt{2}$

92. The length and breadth of a rectangular field are in the ratio of 3 : 2. If the perimeter of the field is 80 m, its breadth (in metres) is:

- (a) 18 (b) 16
(c) 10 (d) 24

93. The radius of a circular wheel is 1.75 m. The number of revolutions it will make in travelling 11 km is (use $\pi = \frac{22}{7}$):

- (a) 800 (b) 900
(c) 1000 (d) 1200

94. If the radius of a sphere is increased by 2 cm, its surface area increased by 352 cm². The radius of sphere before change is (use $\pi = \frac{22}{7}$):

- (a) 3 cm (b) 4 cm
(c) 5 cm (d) 6 cm

95. The area of a circle is 38.5 sq cm. Its circumference (in cm) is (use $\pi = \frac{22}{7}$):

- (a) 22 (b) 24 (c) 26 (d) 32

96. The breadth of a rectangular hall is three-fourths of its length. If the area of the floor is 768 sq m, then the difference between the length and breadth of the hall is:

- (a) 8 metres (b) 12 metres
(c) 24 metres (d) 32 metres

97. A metallic hemisphere is melted and recast in the shape of a cone with the same base radius (R) as that of the hemisphere. If H is the height of the cone, then:

- (a) $H = 2R$ (b) $H = \frac{2}{3}R$
(c) $H = \sqrt{3}R$ (d) $H = 3R$

98. A conical vessel whose internal radius is 12 cm and height 50 cm is full of liquid. The contents are emptied into a cylindrical vessel with radius (internal) 10 cm. The height to which the liquid rises in the cylindrical vessel is:

- (a) 25 cm (b) 20 cm
(c) 24 cm (d) 22 cm

99. Two right circular cylinders of equal volume have their heights in the ratio 1 : 2. The ratio of their radii is:

- (a) $\sqrt{2} : 1$ (b) 2 : 1
(c) 1 : 2 (d) 1 : 4

100. A and B can do a work in 12 days, B and C in 15 days,

C and A in 20 days. If A, B and C work together, they will complete the work in:

- (a) 5 days (b) $7\frac{5}{6}$ days
(c) 10 days (d) $15\frac{2}{3}$ days

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

51. (d) $5808 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 3 \times 11 \times 11$ Reqd no. = 3

52. (c) L.C.M. of 4, 6, 8, 12, 16 = 48 Reqd no. = $48 + 2 = 50$

53. (a) $x + y = 40$, $xy = 375$

$$\frac{x+y}{xy} = \frac{40}{375} \Rightarrow \frac{x}{xy} + \frac{y}{xy} = \frac{8}{75}$$

$$\text{or } \frac{1}{y} + \frac{1}{x} = \frac{8}{75}$$

54. (d) Let the nos. be $x, x + 2$

$$\therefore \text{Product of nos} = \text{H.C.F.} \times \text{L.C.M.}$$

$$x(x+2) = 24 \text{ or } x^2 + 2x - 24 = 0 \Rightarrow x = -6, 4$$

$$x \neq -6 \therefore x = 4, x + 2 = 4 + 2 = 6$$

Nos. are 4 and 6

55. (a) Let the total no. of students be x

$$\therefore \text{Girls} = \frac{3}{5}x, \text{Boys} = \frac{2}{5}x$$

$$\text{Total students present} = (1 - \frac{2}{9}) \frac{3}{5}x + (1 - \frac{1}{4}) \frac{2}{5}x = \frac{23}{30}x$$

56. (c) $x(x - 5) = 336 \Rightarrow x^2 - 5x - 336 = 0 \Rightarrow x = 21, -16$

$$x \neq -16 \therefore x = 21$$

$$\text{Other no.} = x - 5 = 21 - 5 = 16$$

$$\text{Sum} = 21 + 16 = 37$$

57. (a) Reqd. no. = H.C.F. of 1001 and 910 = 91

58. (a) 4^2 gives unit's digit = 6

$$4^{102} = (4^2)^{51} \text{ gives unit's digit } 6$$

$$4^{103} = (4^2)^{51} \cdot 4 \text{ gives unit's digit } = 4$$

$$\therefore \text{Sum} = 6 + 4 = 10$$

$$\therefore \text{Unit's digit in the given no.} = 0$$

59. (d) $\sqrt{3} = 3^{\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{3}} = 3^{\frac{1}{6}} = (27)^{\frac{1}{6}}$

$$(2)^{\frac{1}{3}} = (2^2)^{\frac{1}{6}} = 4^{\frac{1}{6}}$$

$$\sqrt{2} = 2^{\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{3}} = 2^{\frac{3}{6}} = 8^{\frac{1}{6}}$$

$$(4)^{\frac{1}{3}} = 4^{\frac{2}{6}} = (4^2)^{\frac{1}{6}} = 16^{\frac{1}{6}}$$

$$\therefore \text{Least } \sqrt[3]{2} \text{ (L.C.M. of 2 and 3 = 6)}$$

(For comparison, convert each into same order)

60. (b) Exp = $66\frac{2}{3}\% = \frac{200}{3}\%$

$$\therefore \text{Saving} = (100 - \frac{200}{3})\% = \frac{100}{3}\%$$

A.T.S. $\frac{100}{3}\%$ of $x = 1200 \Rightarrow x = 3600$

$\therefore \text{Exp} = 3600 - 1200 = \text{Rs } 2400$

61 (c) $\frac{80}{100}A = \frac{50}{100}B = \frac{50}{100} \times \frac{x}{100} \times A \Rightarrow x = 160$

62 (d) Let $y = 100$ $x = 80$

If x is 80, $y = 100$

If x is 100 then $y = \frac{100 \times 100}{80} = 125$

125% of $x = y$

63 (a) Let the no. of males be x

No. of females = $8000 - x$

$\frac{110}{100}x + \frac{108}{100}(8000 - x) = \frac{109}{100} \times 8000 \Rightarrow x = 4000$

64 (c) Failed candidates = $1000 \times \frac{(100-60)}{100} + 800 \times \frac{(100-50)}{100}$
 $= 800$

Reqd% = $\frac{800}{1000+800} \times 100 = 44.4$

65 (a) Let $C = 100$ $B = 80$ $A = \frac{140}{100} \times 80 = 112$

$\frac{A}{C} = \frac{112}{100} = \frac{28}{25} = 28 \text{ } 25$

66 (c) On 120, reduction should be 20

On 100, reduction should be = $\frac{20}{120} \times 100 = 16 \frac{2}{3}$

67 (b) $(100 - 70)\%$ of $x = 510 \Rightarrow x = 510 \times \frac{100}{30} = 1700$

68 (b) Ist discount = $100000 \times \frac{40}{100} = \text{Rs } 40000$

Amount after two successive discounts

$= 100000 \times \frac{(100-36)}{100} \times \frac{(100-4)}{100} = \text{Rs } 61440$

$\therefore$ Equivalent single discount = $100000 - 61440 = 38560$

$\therefore$ Difference = $40000 - 38560 = 1440$

69 (b) Let C.P. = Rs 100

$\therefore$ M.P. = Rs 110

$\therefore$ S.P. = $\frac{110 \times (100-10)}{100} = \text{Rs } 99$

$\therefore$ Loss = $100 - 99 = 1$

1% Loss $(\text{S.P.} = \frac{\text{M.P.} \times (100 - D)}{100})$

70 (d) 15% of $x = 20\%$ of $y \Rightarrow \frac{x}{y} = \frac{4}{3}$

$x : y = 4 : 3 = 80 : 60$

71 (b) Reqd amount = $100 \times \frac{10}{25} \times \frac{1250}{100} = \text{Rs } 500$

72 (b) $2P = P(1 + \frac{R}{100})^{15} \therefore 2 = (1 + \frac{R}{100})^{15}$ Cubing both sides

$8 = (1 + \frac{R}{100})^{3 \times 15}$ or $8P = P(1 + \frac{R}{100})^{45}$

$\therefore$ Reqd time = 45 years

73 (c) $\text{CI} = P[(1 + \frac{R}{100})^2 - 1] \Rightarrow 102$

$= P[(1 + \frac{4}{100})^2 - 1] \Rightarrow P = 1250$

$\text{SI} = \frac{P \times R \times T}{100} = \frac{1250 \times 4 \times 2}{100} = \text{Rs } 100$

74 (a) Let $P = \text{Rs } x$, $A = \frac{7}{6}x \therefore \text{SI} = \frac{7}{6}x - x = \text{Rs } \frac{1}{6}x$

$R = \frac{\text{SI} \times 100}{P \times T} = \frac{\frac{x}{6} \times 100}{x \times 3} = \frac{50}{9} = 5 \frac{5}{9}\%$

75 (d) $\frac{x \times 5 \times 4}{100} - \frac{x \times 5 \times 3}{100} = 42 \Rightarrow x = \text{Rs } 840$

76 (d) C.P. of 100 oranges = $\frac{3}{7} \times 100 = \text{Rs } \frac{300}{7}$, Gain = 33%

$\text{S.P.} = \frac{\text{C.P.} \times (100 + \text{gain}\%)}{100} = \frac{300}{7} \times \frac{133}{100} = \text{Rs } 57$

77 (a) Let S.P. of 1 book be Re 1

S.P. of 36 books = Rs 36

C.P. of 36 books = S.P. of 30 books = Rs 30

$P = \text{S.P.} - \text{C.P.} = 36 - 30 = \text{Rs } 6$

$P\% = \frac{6}{30} \times 100 = 20\%$

78 (a) $\text{C.P.} = \frac{\text{S.P.} \times 100}{100 - \text{Loss}\%} = \frac{480 \times 100}{100 - 20} = \text{Rs } 600$

Reqd S.P. = $\frac{600 \times (100 + 20)}{100} = \text{Rs } 720$

79 (b) When S.P. of two machines is same, there is always loss in such case which is $x\%$ of $x = 10\%$ of $10 = 1\%$. $x = 10$

80 (b) C.P. of 10 kg of apples = Rs 405, Reqd. gain = 10%

$\text{S.P.} = 405 \times \frac{(100 + 10)}{100} = \frac{81 \times 11}{2}$

S.P. of 9 kg = $81 \times \frac{11}{2}$ ($\therefore$ 1 kg were rotten apples)

$\therefore$ S.P. of 1 kg of apples = $\frac{81}{9} \times \frac{11}{2} = \text{Rs } 49.50$

81 (a) $\frac{a}{b} = \frac{7}{9}$, $\frac{b}{c} = \frac{15}{7}$, $\frac{a}{c} = \frac{a}{b} \times \frac{b}{c} = \frac{7}{9} \times \frac{15}{7} = \frac{5}{3}$

82. (d) A B C

$\frac{1}{2} : \frac{1}{3} : \frac{1}{4}$

or 6 : 4 : 3

Sum of ratio = $6 + 4 + 3 = 13$

A's share = $\frac{6}{13} \times 117 = \text{Rs } 54$

B gets = $\frac{4}{13} \times 117 = \text{Rs } 36$

C gets = $\frac{3}{13} \times 117 = \text{Rs } 27$

If ratio $2 : 3 : 4$ Sum of ratios = $2 + 3 + 4 = 9$

A gets = $\frac{2}{9} \times 117 = \text{Rs } 26$

B gets = $\frac{3}{9} \times 117 = \text{Rs } 39$

C gets = $\frac{4}{9} \times 117 = \text{Rs } 52$

$\therefore$ C gets most by Rs $52 - 27$ i.e. Rs 25

83. (c) Let B's money = Rs x $\therefore$ A's money = Rs $2x$

A.T.S. $\frac{2x-2}{x+2} = \frac{1}{1} \Rightarrow x = 4$

A's money = Rs 8

B's money = Rs 4

84. (a) A's expenditure = $2400 - 300 = \text{Rs } 2100$

Ratio of expenditures of A and B = $4 : 3$

$\therefore$ B's expenditure = $\frac{3}{4} \times 2100 = \text{Rs } 1575$

C's expenditure = $\frac{5}{4} \times 2100 = \text{Rs } 2625$

B's income = $\frac{7}{3} \times 2400 = \text{Rs } 5600$

$\therefore$ B's saving = $5600 - 1575 = \text{Rs } 4025$

C's income = $\frac{4}{3} \times 2400 = \text{Rs } 3200$

$\therefore$ C's saving = $3200 - 2625 = \text{Rs } 575$

85. (d) $x + \frac{2}{3}x = 85 \Rightarrow x = 51$ Longer part = $x = 51$ m

86. (b) $\bar{x} = \frac{\text{Sum of observations}}{\text{no. of observations}}$

$12 = \frac{1}{12} (3 + 11 + 7 + 9 + 15 + 13 + 8 + 19 + 17 + 21 + 14$

$+ x) \Rightarrow x = 7$

87. (a) Reqd. no. = $\frac{4375 \times 12 - 4000 \times 3}{9} = 4500$

88. (d) The excluded no. = $27 \times 5 - 25 \times 4 = 35$

89. (c) Reqd. average = $\frac{51 \times 8 + 9 \times 68}{17} = 60$

90. (b) $d^2 = 2a^2 \therefore a^2 = \frac{d^2}{2} = \frac{5.2 \times 5.2}{2} = 13.52$ sq cm

d = diagonal of a square

a = side

91. (a) $d = \sqrt{3}l \therefore d^3 = \sqrt{3}l^3$

$V = l^3 = \frac{d^3}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{\sqrt{12} \times \sqrt{12} \times \sqrt{12}}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{\sqrt{3} \times 12}{\sqrt{3}} = 8$

or $\sqrt{12} = \sqrt{3}l \therefore l = 2$, Vol = $l^3 = 2^3 = 8$

92. (b) Let $L = 3x$ and $B = 2x$, $P = 2(L + B) = 80$

$2(3x + 2x) = 80 \Rightarrow x = 8 \therefore B = 2 \times 8 = 16$

93. (c) Distance covered in one revolution

$= C = 2\pi r = 2 \times \frac{22}{7} \times 1.75$ m

No. of revolutions = $\frac{11 \times 1000}{2} \times \frac{7}{22} \times \frac{100}{175} = 1000$

94. (d) A.T.S $4\pi[(r+2)^2 - r^2] = 352 \Rightarrow r = 6$ cm

S.A. of a sphere = $4\pi r^2$

95. (a) Radius of a circle = $\sqrt{A + \pi} = \sqrt{38.5 + \frac{22}{7}} = \frac{7}{2}$

$C = 2\pi r = 2 \times \frac{22}{7} \times \frac{7}{2} = 22$ cm

96. (a) Let $L = x$ m $\therefore B = \frac{3}{4}x$ $\therefore$ Area of a floor = $L \times B$

or $x \times \frac{3}{4}x = 768 \Rightarrow x^2 = 768 \times \frac{4}{3} \Rightarrow x = 32$

$B = \frac{3}{4} \times 32 = 24$

$\therefore$ Difference between length and breadth = $32 - 24 = 8$ m

97. (a) Vol of cone = Vol of hemisphere

$\frac{1}{3}\pi R^2 H = \frac{2}{3}\pi R^3 \therefore H = 2R$

98. (c) Vol of liquid = $\frac{1}{3}\pi r^2 h = \frac{1}{3}\pi \times 12 \times 12 \times 50 = 2400\pi$ cm

Vol. of a cylinder = $\pi R^2 H$

Vol. of liquid = $\pi R^2 \times$ height to which liquid rises
 $2400\pi = \pi \times 10^2 \times$ reqd height

$\therefore$ Reqd height = 24 cm

99. (a) $h_1 : h_2 = 1 : 2$ Let $h_1 = x$, $h_2 = 2x$

Vol of 1st cylinder = Vol of 2nd cylinder

$\pi r_1^2 h_1 = \pi r_2^2 h_2 \Rightarrow \frac{r_1^2}{r_2^2} = \frac{h_2}{h_1} = \frac{2x}{x} = \frac{2}{1}$

$\left(\frac{r_1}{r_2}\right)^2 = \frac{2}{1} \therefore \frac{r_1}{r_2} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{1} \Rightarrow r_1 : r_2 = \sqrt{2} : 1$

100. (c) $2(A+B+C)$'s one day's work = $\frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{15} + \frac{1}{20} = \frac{1}{5}$

$\therefore (A+B+C)$'s one day's work = $\frac{1}{10}$

$\therefore A+B+C$ together will do the work in 10 days

Test of Reasoning-1

Qs. 1-5. Find the odd-man out:

- 1 (1) Bhopal (2) Delhi (3) Lucknow
(4) Mumbai (5) Calcutta
- 2 (1) trigger (2) tripod (3) triangle
(4) tricycle (5) trident
- 3 (1) barometer (2) lactometer (3) perimeter
(4) thermometer (5) milometer
- 4 (1) heart (2) spade (3) axe
(4) club (5) diamond
- 5 (1) triangle (2) rhombus (3) square
(4) arc (5) circle

Qs. 6-10. In each of the following questions, the first set has two words with a definite relationship between them. You have to find out from (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) the word that has similar relationship with the word given in the second set.

- 6 reduction increase lend ?
(1) money (2) debt (3) necessity
(4) give (5) borrow
- 7 drama novel head ?
(1) ideas (2) hand (3) thinking
(4) brain (5) skull
- 8 Sunday Tuesday April ?
(1) holiday (2) June (3) May
(4) March (5) summer
- 9 Chennai Madras Myanmar ?
(1) Burma (2) India (3) Rangoon
(4) revolution (5) Buddhism

- 10 minute hour inch ?
(1) measurement (2) cloth (3) metre
(4) yard (5) distance

Qs. 11 and 12 are based on the codes given below:

'jom pom son lom' means, 'Brilliant candidates got appointed'

'lom bom dom pom' means, 'Some candidates were lucky'

'tom nom pom bom' means, 'Some uneducated are brilliant'

'som fom kom nom' means, 'Uneducated were also appointed'

11. 'Some candidates are lucky' would be coded as

- (1) lom tom dom bom (2) lom bom nom fom
- (3) bom fom tom dom (4) jom fom bom pom
- (5) None of these

12. According to the above code, 'som jom nom' means

- (1) brilliant uneducated appointed
- (2) uneducated were lucky
- (3) some lucky appointed
- (4) uneducated got appointed (5) None of these

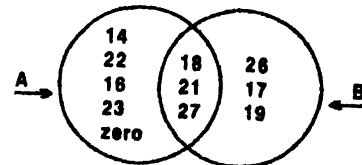
13. If in a certain code, 'MILLENNIUM' is 'LIMMULENN', then 'DICTIONARY' would be:

- (1) TCIDYRANIO (2) CIDYRATION

- (3) CIDOITYRAN (4) CIDYARTION

(5) None of these

Qs. 14 to 16 are based on numbered circles given below:



14. If the average number of numbers inclusive in circle A and B were deducted from the average of the numbers exclusive in circle A only, the result would be

- (1) 7 (2) 6 (3) 3 (4) 9
- (5) None of these

15. The difference in the total of numbers exclusive in circle A and exclusive in circle B is

- (1) 13 (2) 14 (3) 16 (4) 19 (5) None of these

16. The total of numbers exclusive in circle B is what per cent (approximately) of the total of all the numbers in the circles?

- (1) 27.8% (2) 20.4% (3) 33.3% (4) 30.5%
- (5) None of these

Qs. 17 to 20 are based on the information given below:

In a certain city

School is 3 km to the north of Temple

College is 2 km to the north of Post Office

Bus Station is 5 km to the east of Post Office

Market is 3 km to the east of Temple and 4 km to the north of Bus Station

Railway Station is 2 km to the north of Temple

17. Which two places are the farthest as the crow flies?

- (1) School and Bus Station
- (2) Post Office and Market (3) School and College
- (4) Temple and Bus Station (5) None of these

18. If all the roads run north-south or east-west, how far is the College from the School?

- (1) 8 km (2) 9 km (3) 7 km (4) 11 km
- (5) None of these

19. Which three places are in a straight line?

- (1) School, College and Temple
- (2) Rly Station, Market and Temple
- (3) Temple, Rly. Station and School
- (4) College, Post Office and Bus Station
- (5) None of these

20. A and B alighted from the same bus and both took taxis. A went via Market and Temple at a speed of 40 km per hour and B via Post Office, College and temple at a speed of 60 km per hour, and both reached the School. Who reached before?

- (1) A 2 mts. before (2) B 3 mts. before

(3) B 2 mts before

(4) B 1 mt before

(5) None of these

Qs. 21 to 25. Each of the following questions has three positions of a person. Match them with figures given in (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5).

21 sitting bending standing 1)   

22 reclining standing bending 2)   

23 bending sitting reclining 3)   

24 standing lying down bending 4)   

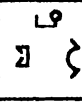
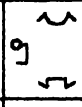
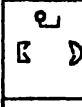
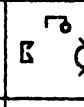
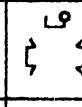
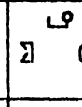
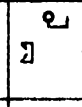
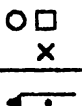
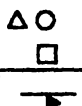
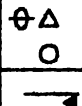
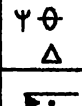
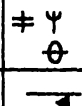
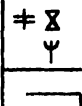
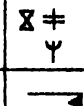
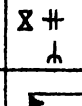
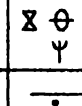
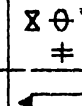
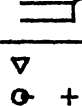
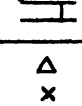
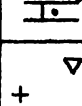
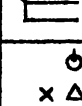
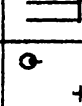
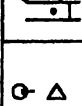
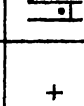
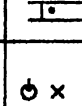
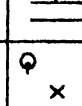
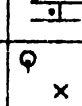
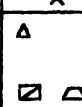
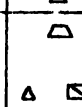
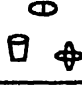
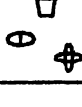
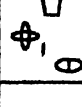
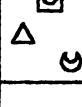
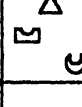
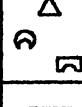
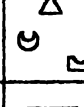
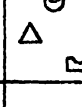
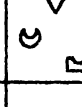
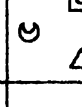
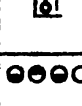
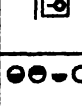
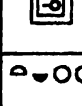
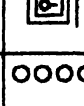
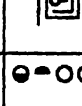
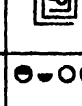
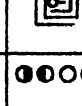
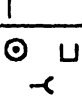
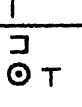
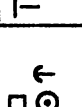
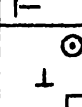
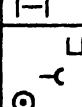
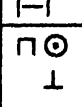
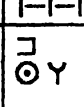
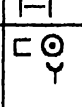
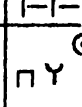
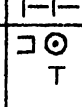
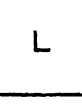
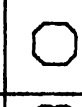
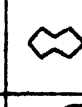
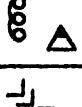
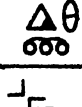
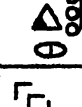
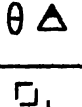
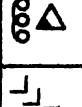
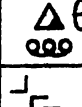
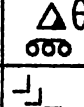
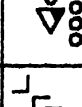
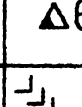
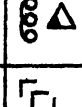
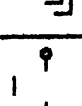
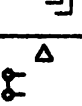
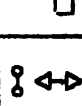
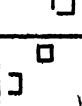
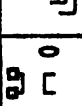
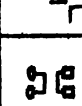
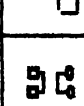
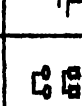
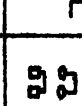
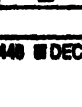
25 lying down sitting standing 5)   

NON-VERBAL SERIES

Given below are two sets of figures, the Problem Figures and the Answer Figures. You have to find out which of the Answer Figures from A, B, C, D and E would come next in the series of the Problem Figures.

PROBLEM FIGURES

ANSWER FIGURES

						A	B	C	D	E
26										
27										
28										
29										
30										
31										
32										
33										
34										
35										
36										
37										
38										

		A	B	C	D	E
39.						
40.						
41.						
42.						
43.						
44.						
45.						
46.						
47.						
48.						
49.						
50.						
51.						
52.						
53.						
54.						
55.						

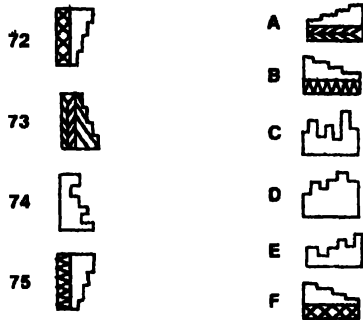
Q. 56-65. Find the set that is different from the other three:

	A	B	C	D
56.				
57.				
58.				
59.				
60.				
61.				
62.				
63.				
64.				
65.				

Qs. 66-71. In each of the following questions, two problem figures followed by five answer figures, A, B, C, D and E are given. The two problem figures have some common characteristics. You have to find out the one figure from the answer figures that has the same characteristics.

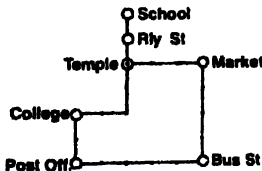
	PROBLEM FIGURES	A	B	C	D	E
66.						
67.						
68.						
69.						
70.						
71.						

Qs. 72-75. In each of the following questions, a part of a square is given. Find out from A, B, C, D, E and F, the missing part that would match and complete the figure.



ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- 1 (2) All the others are capitals of States while Delhi is capital of India
- 2 (1) In all the others 'tri' is used for three
- 3 (3) All the others are instruments for measuring certain things
- 4 (3) All the others are connected with playing cards
- 5 (4) All the others are closed geometrical figures
- 6 (5) The words are antonyms
- 7 (2) Both are elements of the same general head literature/human body
- 8 (2) The next one follows the first with a gap of one
- 9 (1) They have the new name and the old name relationship
- 10 (4) One is a small unit of the other
- 11 (1) 12 (4) 13 (2)
- 14 (3) $(14 + 22 + 16 + 23 + 0) - 5 - (16 + 21 + 27) - 3, i.e. 25 - 22 = 3$
- 15 (1) $(14 + 22 + 16 + 23 + 0) - (26 + 17 + 19), i.e. 75 - 62 = 13$
- 16 (4) 62 out of 203
- 17 (1)
- 18 (3)
- 19 (4)
- 20 (3)
- 21 (2) 22 (5) 23 (4) 24 (1) 25 (3)
- 26 (D) The figures go round clockwise rotating and two of them changing pattern in two and three steps
- 27 (B) Figures interchange places clockwise and one is replaced by a new figure
- 28 (A) Dot steps down, the dark triangle goes left to right in three steps and the line in four steps
- 29 (E) Triangle goes round clockwise turning upside down, cross and plus right and left and the third figure rotates clockwise covering one and two steps alternately
- 30 (A) First three figures have a relationship, the same has been repeated in the next set
- 31 (B) Same as above
- 32 (E) The central figure rotates and one and two lines are added alternately



- 33 (C) Lines are added and black parts disappear alternately
- 34 (E) The U rotates and goes from corner to corner anti-clockwise, the circle gains a step and the figure in the centre changes alternately
- 35 (A) One and two sides are added to the figure alternately
- 36 (B) The figures go round in opposite direction and the black part shifts clockwise
- 37 (C) The angles change turn by turn
- 38 (B) See how the small figures join the main ones in sets of three
- 39 (E) The figures interchange positions according to a set pattern
- 40 (B) Figures interchange places with half portion disappearing
- 41 (D) One figure changes after two steps, the other changes alternately and they go round anti-clockwise
- 42 (C) Small figures interchange places and the other one goes round clockwise
- 43 (E) The ball hops along one and two steps alternately and the black petal covers one extra step each time
- 44 (B) The figure swings and small parts move from bottom to top
- 45 (B) The figure changes in four steps
- 46 (A) The figures get smaller and bigger and move around according to a set pattern
- 47 (D) Figures are in sets of two. All the sets follow the same pattern
- 48 (A) One stroke increases clockwise
- 49 (B) Figures are in sets of three and move similarly
- 50 (A) One figure changes with each step and figures interchange places according to a set pattern
- 51 (E) Figures move up and down and along edges according to a set pattern
- 52 (D) One petal is added alternately and the two circles move in opposite direction at different pace
- 53 (B) One line is added alternately, the white circle along three points and the dark circle in and out
- 54 (E) Three figures interchange places and then go round anti-clockwise
- 55 (B) One line is added, the dot goes right and left and the figure inside rotates clockwise
- 56 (C) In all the others the second figure has one more line than the first one
- 57 (B) In all the others, both the figures have the same sides, lines
- 58 (D) The ratio of the figures is different
- 59 (A) In all the others, one is the mirror image of the other
- 60 (C) In all the others the strokes are one less than the number of lines in the first one and one more in the second one
- 61 (B) In all the others, the second figure has two more sides than the first one
- 62 (D) The rotation of the figures is different
- 63 (B) The second figure should have two sides less than the first figure
- 64 (B) The arrangement of small figures is different
- 65 (C) In all the others the inner figure has one side less
- 66 (D) 67 (E) 68 (B) 69 (E)
- 70 (A) 71 (C) 72 (F) 73 (A)
- 74 (D) 75 (B)

Test of Reasoning-2

Qs. 1-6. In each of the following questions, a series of numbers is given. Below this series is given a number followed by (A), (B), (C), (D) and (E). After understanding the pattern in the given number series, you have to form another number series in the same order, starting from the given number.

1. 3 6 18 72 360
2 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (E)?

- (1) 1080 (2) 1240 (3) 1440
(4) 1180 (5) None of these

2. 7 13 25 49 97
8 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (C)?

- (1) 51 (2) 57 (3) 63
(4) 69 (5) None of these

3. 12 24 26 52 54
19 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (C)?

- (1) 59 (2) 73 (3) 80
(4) 84 (5) None of these

4. 16 64 25 125 36
4 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (A)?

- (1) 12 (2) 16 (3) 10
(4) 8 (5) None of these

5. 16 15 28 81 320
11 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (D)?

- (1) 200 (2) 196 (3) 192
(4) 2004 (5) None of these

6. 31 37 41 43 47
53 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Which of the following numbers will come at the place of (B)?

- (1) 59 (2) 63 (3) 57
(4) 61 (5) None of these

Find the odd-man out:

7. (1) 4(12)2 (2) 7(13)6
(3) 9(45)6 (4) 10(55)7
(5) 12(80)8

8. (1) 9(27)6 (2) 10(343)3
(3) 16(32)14 (4) 5(8)3
(5) 12(125)7

Qs. 9 to 14 are based on the series of letters, symbols and numbers given below:

✓ B Δ 3 □ Γ 8 ⊕ G Δ J ⊕ 7 □ 6 K 5 ✓ N □ 3 P 8 H D
✓ 6 Δ M ⊕

9. How many letters have either symbols or numbers on their left and right?

- (1) 5 (2) 6 (3) 7
(4) 8 (5) None of these

10. What is the total of the numbers that have either letters or symbols on both right and left sides?

- (1) 24 (2) 26 (3) 23
(4) 29 (5) None of these

11. What is the ratio among numbers, letters and symbols in the series?

- (1) 3 5 6 (2) 4 5 6 (3) 4 5 7
(4) 3 4 5 (5) None of these

12-13. In the following arrangements, which one is different from the others?

12. (1) F⊕GJ (2) N□PD
(3) HD6⊕ (4) ⊕76N
(5) ✓N3H

13. (1) □F⊕J (2) N□PD
(3) HD6⊕ (4) ⊕76N
(5) ✓N3H

14. Which set would come next?

- ✓Δ□8 Γ⊕Δ⊕ J765 K✓□P ?
(1) PH✓Δ (2) 38D6
(3) 38✓Δ (4) □PH✓
(5) 8D6M

In questions 15 and 16, four out of the five given words are related to the word 'INTERMEDIATE' in the same way while one is different. Your task is to find this odd-man out:

15. (1) INTERIM
(2) MEDIA
(3) TERMINATE
(4) DETERMINE
(5) IMMEDIATE

16. (1) TERM
(2) RATE
(3) DATE
(4) DREAM
(5) TREAT

17. If in a certain code, FREEDOM is ESDFCPL then SLAVERY would be:

- (1) RMZWDSX
(2) RMZWDQZ
(3) RMZUFQZ

- (4) RMBWDSZ
(5) RMZUESX

Qs. 18-23. Each question below has a word along with its code. The capital letters are coded by small letters. Your task is to find out the right code for letters of the words enclosed in box

18 S P **R** O U T

- (1) y (2) w (3) g (4) m (5) z (6) c

19 T R A V E **L**

- (1) q (2) m (3) h (4) x (5) k (6) w

20 P **A** S T E L

- (1) m (2) y (3) k (4) q (5) x (6) g

21 **D** O U B L E

- (1) x (2) k (3) n (4) z (5) j (6) c

22 R F **V** O I T

- (1) k (2) m (3) w (4) c (5) h (6) x

23 S **T** R I D E

- (1) w (2) g (3) k (4) n (5) m (6) f

Qs. 24-28. A survey was conducted on the type of books children aged 7 to 14 read in their spare time. Children were divided into four age group and a study of 250 students in each group was made by the surveyors. Questions 24 to 28 are based on their findings

AGE GROUP ↓ 250 Sts Each	CATEGORY OF BOOKS					
	Adventure stories	Science fiction	Comics	Classics	Crime stories	Percentage of students not reading
7 to 8 yrs	22%	2%	70%	-	2%	4%
9 to 10 yrs	28%	6%	52%	2%	8%	4%
11 to 12 yrs	32%	10%	30%	6%	14%	8%
13 to 14 yrs	14%	14%	24%	12%	26%	10%

24 What is the percentage of children who read adventure stories?

- (1) 25% (2) 22% (3) 24%
(4) 28% (5) None of these

25 The percentage of students who read science fiction is how much more than the percentage of students who read classics?

- (1) 5% (2) 7% (3) 3%
(4) 4% (5) None of these

26 The number of students who read comics is how much more than the number of students who read adventure stories?

- (1) 161 (2) 200 (3) 180
(4) 205 (5) None of these

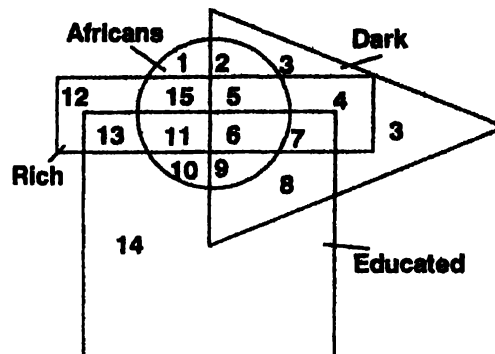
27. What is the total number of children who read crime stories?

- (1) 125 (2) 90 (3) 95
(4) 105 (5) None of these

28 What is the percentage of students who don't read at all?

- (1) 85% (2) 7% (3) 9%
(4) 65% (5) None of these

Qs. 29 to 33 are based on the diagram given below:



In the diagram, the circle represents Africans, the triangle dark persons, the square educated persons and the rectangle rich persons. Each section of the diagram is numbered. Now answer the following questions:

29 Which section represents the persons who are rich, educated and dark but are not Africans?

- (1) 5 (2) 7 (3) 4
(4) 8 (5) None of these

30 The educated Africans, who are dark but not rich are represented by the number

- (1) 8 (2) 7 (3) 9
(4) 6 (5) None of these

31 Number 5 represents

- (1) rich uneducated Africans who are dark
(2) rich educated Africans who are dark
(3) rich but uneducated non-Africans who are not dark
(4) rich uneducated Africans who are not dark
(5) None of these

32 Which number represents educated and rich Africans who are not dark?

- (1) 6 (2) 15 (3) 10
(4) 11 (5) None of these

33 Dark non-Africans who are neither rich nor educated are represented by the number

- (1) 4 (2) 3 (3) 8
(4) 7 (5) None of these

34 Given below are five equations. Four out of these five have the same value while one is different. You have to find this odd-man out:

- (1) $6^3 - 5^2 + 3^3 - 7^1 + 5^1$
(2) $(5 + 7)^2 - 3^4 + 6 - (3 \times 23)$
(3) $\frac{5 + 31}{12} \times \frac{130 + 2}{5} - (3 \times 13)$
(4) $\frac{(3 \times 4)^2}{4} \times \frac{17 + 11}{4} - (83 \times 3)$
(5) $(3 + 4)^2 + (5 + 6)^2 - (34 \times 5)$

Qs. 35-37. Two persons A and B started for point P in the following way:

A went 3 km south, turned left and went 1 km then turned right and after going 1 km again turned left and after going 1 km reached 'P'

B went 2 km east, turned right and after 1 km again turned right. After going 1 km he turned left and went 3 km. Finally, he turned right and after 1 km, reached 'P' at the same time as 'A' did.

35. How far is 'P' from B's starting point as the crow flies? (in kilometres)

- (1) $\sqrt{3^2+4^2}$ (2) $\sqrt{2^2+3^2}$ (3) 4
(4) 5 (5) None of these

36. How far is A's starting point from B's starting point and in which direction?

- (1) 2 km west
(2) 1 km north
(3) 1 km south
(4) 4 km east
(5) None of these

37. If they both reached 'P' at 10 A.M. and started at 8 A.M. who moved faster and by how many minutes per hour?

- (1) A, 4 mts p h.
(2) A, 5 mts p h
(3) B, 4 mts p.h
(4) B, 5 mts p h
(5) can't say

Qs. 38 to 40 are based on the following information.

A non-government organisation (NGO) took up five projects for five villages A, B, C, D and E. The projects were opening health centre, providing electricity, 100% literacy, vocational training to women and supplying clean drinking water, one project for each village but not in the same order.

Health and electricity were not in the programme for C.

B and E were not under the clean drinking water project

Vocational training to women was not scheduled for D or C.

The 100% literacy programme was allotted to A.

Electricity was not to be provided to D nor vocational training for women to E

38. To which village was the vocational training for women programme allotted?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C
(4) D (5) E

39. Which of the following is a wrong statement?

- (1) D and E were not to have health centre under the project.
(2) Clean drinking water was to be arranged for C.
(3) Women of B were to have vocational training programme.

(4) Literacy programme was not allotted to any village other than A.

(5) All the above are right.

40. Which village was to have electricity?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C
(4) D (5) E

SYLLOGISMS

In each question below are given two statements followed by four conclusions numbered I, II, III and IV. You have to take the two given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance with commonly known facts. Read all the conclusions and then decide which of them logically follow from the statements, disregarding commonly known facts.

Statements:

41. 1. All horses are camels.
2. All camels are goats.

Conclusions:

- I. All horses are goats.
II. All camels are horses.
III. Some goats are camels.
IV. All goats are camels.
(1) Only I and II follow
(2) Only I and III follow.
(3) Only II and III follow
(4) Only II and IV follow.
(5) Either II or IV follows.

Statements:

42. 1. Some files are books
2. Some files are green

Conclusions

- I. Some books are not files.
II. Some books are green.
III. Nothing else is green except files
IV. No book is green
(1) Only I and II follow.
(2) Only I and III follow.
(3) Either III or IV follows.
(4) Either II or IV follows.
(5) Any one of the four follows.

Statements

43. 1. 40% students in a class of 50 failed in Physics
2. 40% failed in Chemistry and 40% in Mathematics.

Conclusions:

- I. Only 30 students were declared successful.
II. No student failed in two subjects.
III. No student failed in all the three subjects.
IV. Some students did not fail in any subject.
(1) Only I follows.
(2) Only II follows.
(3) Only III follows.
(4) Only IV follows.
(5) None follows.

Statements:

44. 1. Some stones are gems.
2. All gems are pearls.

Conclusions:

- I. Some stones are pearls.
II. Some gems are not pearls.
III. All pearls are gems.

- IV All pearls are stones
 (1) Only I follows
 (2) Either I or II follows.
 (3) Either III or IV follows.
 (4) Only II follows
 (5) Only IV follows

Statements

- 45 1 All plants are flowers
 2 All leaves are flowers

Conclusions

- I All flowers are plants as well as leaves
 II Some flowers are neither plant nor leaf
 III Every flower is either a plant or a leaf
 IV Some flowers are plants as well as leaves
 (1) Only I and II follow
 (2) Only III and IV follow
 (3) Either I or II follows
 (4) Only I and III follow
 (5) Only any one of the four follows

Statements

- 46 1 Some insects are birds
 2 Some birds are flies

Conclusions

- I Some insects are flies
 II No insect is a fly
 III Some birds are not insects
 IV Some flies are not birds
 (1) Only I and II follow
 (2) Only III and IV follow
 (3) Either I or II follows
 (4) Either II or III follows
 (5) All the four follow

Statements

- 47 1 All newspapers are magazines
 2 Some magazines are dictionaries

Conclusions

- I All newspapers are dictionaries
 II All magazines are newspapers
 III Some newspapers are dictionaries
 IV No newspaper is a dictionary
 (1) Only I and II follow
 (2) Only III and IV follow
 (3) Only IV follows
 (4) Anyone from I, III and IV follows
 (5) None follows

Statements

- 48 1 Shops are cheaper than cottages but more expensive than houses which are more expensive than farms
 2 Motels are more expensive than restaurants but cheaper than farms

Conclusions

- I Among all the places, mentioned, restaurants are the cheapest
 II Motels are less expensive than shops
 III Cottages are the most expensive places.

IV. Farms are cheaper than cottages

- (1) Only I, III and IV follow.
 (2) Only III and IV follow
 (3) Only II, III and IV follow
 (4) All the four follow
 (5) Only any one of the four follows

In each question below is given a statement followed by three assumptions, numbered I, II and III. An assumption is something assumed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the assumptions and then decide which of the assumptions is implicit in the statement. Then decide which of the answers is correct.

Statement

49 After a major railway accident near Gaisal in which hundreds of passengers lost their lives, the Railway Minister resigned.

Assumptions

- I It was due to his personal negligence that the accident occurred
 II He was perturbed and felt it was his moral responsibility hence he resigned
 III He was so much criticized by his colleagues as well as by the members of opposition party that he felt humiliated and resigned
 (1) Only I is implicit in the statement
 (2) Only II is implicit
 (3) Either I or II is implicit
 (4) Either II or III is implicit
 (5) None is implicit

Statement

50 A team of scientists has successfully developed a plastic that is not inimical to the environment as it is bio-degradable.

Assumptions

- I The plastic we are using at present is harmful to the environment
 II Materials, that are not degradable cause pollution
 III Much labour and technology has been applied in developing this new type of plastic
 (1) Only I and II are implicit
 (2) Only II and III are implicit
 (3) Only I and III are implicit
 (4) All the three are implicit
 (5) Any two of the three are implicit

Statement

51 Before the occurrence of total solar eclipse, the media always instructs people not to see it with naked eye.

Assumptions

- I The media is concerned about welfare of the people.
 II Solar eclipse should not be seen with naked eyes.
 III There is no harm in seeing a lunar eclipse with naked eyes as media says nothing about it.
 (1) Only II is implicit
 (2) Only I and II are implicit
 (3) Only II and III are implicit
 (4) Only I and III are implicit
 (5) All are implicit

Statement:

52. The rally in the valley, a part of Narmada Bachao movement was taken up by the intelligentsia and civil society for the first time.

Assumptions:

- I. There is a general awareness about the hazard the dam on Narmada is going to cause in all the strata of society.
 - II. As a result of the rally, the government would drop the proposed Narmada project.
 - III. Big dams on rivers should not be constructed.
- (1) Only I is implicit
 - (2) Only II is implicit.
 - (3) Only III is implicit.
 - (4) Either I or II is implicit.
 - (5) Either II or III is implicit

Statement

53. Many of the Indian movies are Indianised versions of foreign movies.

Assumptions:

- I. Indian story writers are not as good as the foreign writers are.
 - II. Such films are made in less money because there is no need to pay to the story writer.
 - III. When a foreign movie is successful at the box-office, the film makers are almost sure that its Indianised version would be a box office hit too.
- (1) Only I is implicit
 - (2) Only II is implicit.
 - (3) Only III is implicit.
 - (4) None is implicit.
 - (5) Only any one of the three is implicit.

Statement:

54. The government is going to take strict action to stop wide-spread adulteration of milk, particularly the synthetic milk.

Assumptions:

- I. Prior to this proposal, the government was ignorant about the adulteration in milk and existence of synthetic milk.
 - II. Synthetic milk is made with chemicals.
 - III. Adulteration is harmful to health.
- (1) Only I is implicit.
 - (2) Only II is implicit.
 - (3) Only III is implicit.
 - (4) Either I or III is implicit.
 - (5) None is implicit.

Statement:

55. The Banks have reduced the rate of interest on various type of savings.

Assumptions:

- I. The financial condition of Banks is not good hence they are not in a position to pay interest.
- II. Bank employees are over-worked so they are discouraging savings.

III. The value of money has increased.

- (1) Only I is implicit.
- (2) Only II is implicit.
- (3) Either I or II is implicit.
- (4) Only III is implicit.
- (5) None is implicit.

Statement.

56. Candidates try to get hold of some popular Bollywood star for advertising campaign during elections.

Assumptions

- I. Film stars are professionals where the art of advertisement is concerned
 - II. The popularity of stars proves favourable for candidates
 - III. All film stars are interested in politics
- (1) Only I is implicit
 - (2) Only II is implicit
 - (3) Only III is implicit
 - (4) All are implicit.
 - (5) None is implicit.

In each question below is given an assertion 'A' followed by two reasons numbered RI and RII. Apply the reasons to the assertions and mark your answers as follows

- (1) Only RI and not RII is the reason for A
- (2) Only RII and not RI is the reason for A.
- (3) Both RI and RII are the reasons for A
- (4) Either RI or RII is the reason for A
- (5) Neither RI nor RII is the reason for A

57. A. Jobs assured for a life-time with a promise of pension benefits are not discharged efficiently or with dedication by the employees

RI. The employees know they will continue to get their salary whether they work or not.

RII. The employees are deprived of incentives, appreciation and promotions on the basis of merit.

- (1) ☐ (2) ☐ (3) ☐ (4) ☐ (5) ☐

58. A. Dons having high connections often go scot free even after committing hideous crimes.

Reasons:

RI. The high connections are influential enough to curb the incidents to the advantage of these dons.

RII. Persons related to judiciary can be easily purchased.

- (1) ☐ (2) ☐ (3) ☐ (4) ☐ (5) ☐

59. A. A team of environmentalists and animal lovers freed several monkeys purchased by a laboratory for experiments related to cancer-saving drugs.

RI. The life of monkeys is more important than the life of cancer patients.

RII. The animal lovers were sure that the monkeys would die when given cancer-saving drugs.

- (1) ☐ (2) ☐ (3) ☐ (4) ☐ (5) ☐

60. A. The whole nation is donating generously for the families of the Kargil martyrs and those who became crippled.

RI. Since these bread-winners of their families died or suffered serious injuries in defending our borders

so gallantly, it is the moral duty of every Indian to look after their families.

RII. Since every Indian cannot go to the front and fight the enemy, it is the least we can do.

- (1) ☐ (2) ☐ (3) ☐ (4) ☐ (5) ☐

61. A. In some of the suburbs near the Chambal ravines, most of the people move around with a gun hanging on the shoulder.

RI. These people are connected with the gangs who have their hideouts in the ravines.

RII. As these places are frequented by robbers, gun is an instrument for self-defence.

- (1) ☐ (2) ☐ (3) ☐ (4) ☐ (5) ☐

In each of the following questions, a question is asked followed by three statements. While answering the question, you may or may not require the data provided in all the statements. You have to read the question and the three statements and then decide whether the question can be answered with any one or two of the statements or all the three are required to answer the question. The number bearing the statements which are required to answer the question is your answer.

Question:

62. How many pilgrims are expected to take the holy dip in the river this year on the night of the coming full moon?

Statements:

- I. Five years back the number of the pilgrims was about 50,000.
- II. Last year the number of pilgrims was more than 80000.
- III. The number of the pilgrims has constantly been increasing by about 10% per year.

- (1) Only I and II.
 (2) Only II and III.
 (3) Only I and III.
 (4) Only I and either II or III.
 (5) All the three

Question:

63. When did the last solar eclipse of this millennium occur?

Statements:

- I. It was the second Wednesday of August.
- II. The first of September of this year also happened to be a Wednesday.
- III. The next total solar eclipse is in 2001.

- (1) Only I and II.
 (2) Only II and III.
 (3) Only I and III.
 (4) Only III.
 (5) All the three.

Question:

64. How many cartons can fit in this box?

Statements:

- I. The box is 3' x 4'.
- II. Its height is 2½ ft.

III. Each carton is 6" long and 5" broad.

- (1) Only I and II.
 (2) Only II and III.
 (3) One and either II or III.
 (4) Only I and III.
 (5) They are not sufficient.

Question:

65. What is Anshu's rank in the class?

Statements:

- I. Anshu is 24th from the last.
- II. There are thirty children in the class.
- III. Anshu's friend Ramesh got 4th position and there are two children between them.

- (1) Only I and III.
 (2) Only I and II.
 (3) Only II and III.
 (4) Either II or III.
 (5) I and either II or III.

Question:

66. What is the actual cost of this book?

Statements:

- I. I gave a five-hundred rupee note to the book-seller.
- II. He returned one hundred and forty rupees.
- III. There was 10% discount on each book.

- (1) Only I and II.
 (2) Only II and III.
 (3) Only I and III.
 (4) All the three.
 (5) The data is not sufficient to answer the question.

Given below is a paragraph followed by certain conclusions drawn from it. Read the paragraph and examine the conclusions on the basis of the facts stated in the paragraph. Mark your answer:

- (1) if the conclusion is definitely true.
 (2) if it is probably true.
 (3) if doubtful as the data is inadequate.
 (4) if probably false.
 (5) if definitely false.

In a finding by an audit team of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), many irregularities were observed in the running of school education in one of the States, the public suspicion that politics, rather than actual need controls the government's policy on recognition of schools was confirmed. In about 90% cases of the schools that had got recognition, the district-level inspection team carried out inspection of schools for recognition on the basis of the directions given by the private secretary of a minister though he had no jurisdiction in this regard. On the other hand the remaining schools, in spite of fulfilling all the conditions required were not given recognition. They obtained their recognition under order from the court.

67. The CAG had power to cancel the recognition of schools although they were recognised on the basis of the reports sent by the district-level inspection team.

- (1) ☐ (2) ☐ (3) ☐ (4) ☐ (5) ☐

68. In this particular State if a private school is refused

recognition by the department, it can get it from the court.

- (1) ☐ (2) ☐ (3) ☐ (4) ☐ (5) ☐

69. The private secretary of the minister was indirectly being benefitted from these recognitions.

- (1) ☐ (2) ☐ (3) ☐ (4) ☐ (5) ☐

70. The minister did not have knowledge of what his private secretary was doing.

- (1) ☐ (2) ☐ (3) ☐ (4) ☐ (5) ☐

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (3) Go on multiplying numbers by 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 ... respectively. The series would be 2; 4; 12; 48; 240; 1440.
2. (2) Each number is double minus one of the preceding number.
3. (3) The number is multiplied by two and for the next number, 2 are added, the series would be 19, 38, 40, 80, 82, 164.
4. (4) The series would be 2^2 ; 2^3 ; 3^2 ; 3^3 ; 4^2 ; 4^3
5. (1) The series is formed by $\times 1 - 1$; $\times 2 - 2$; $\times 3 - 3$; $\times 4 - 4$; $\times 5 - 5$, hence the series would be 11; 10, 18; 51; 200; 995.
6. (2) The series has prime numbers in succession
7. (4) The arrangement is $x(x^2 - y^2)y$. i.e. 10(53)7 ought to be 10(100 - 49)7; i.e. 10(51)7.
8. (3) The number in the bracket is the cube of the difference of the numbers on its left and right, hence 16(32)14 should be 16(2³)14.
9. (3) The letters are B, G, J, K, N, P and M.
10. (1) The numbers are 3, 7, 8 and 6 and their total is 24.
11. (2) 8 numbers, 10 letters and 12 symbols
12. (3) 13. (4) 14. (2)
15. (5) It has an extra M.
16. (4) In all the others, the letters picked up for forming words do not change order.
17. (1) The codes for letters are the preceding and the following letter in the alphabet respectively.
- 18.-23. For answering these questions, sort out common letters in words and match them with common codes

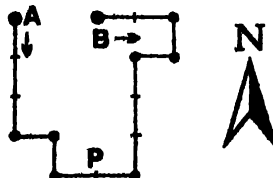
- | | |
|---------|-----------------|
| 18. (2) | 19. (4) |
| 20. (4) | 21. (3) |
| 22. (5) | 23. (5) |
| 24. (3) | 25. (3) 8% - 5% |
| 26. (2) | 27. (1) |
| 28. (4) | 29. (2) |
| 30. (3) | 31. (1) |
| 32. (4) | 33. (2) |
| 34. (4) | |

35-37.

35. (3)

36. (1)

37. (4)

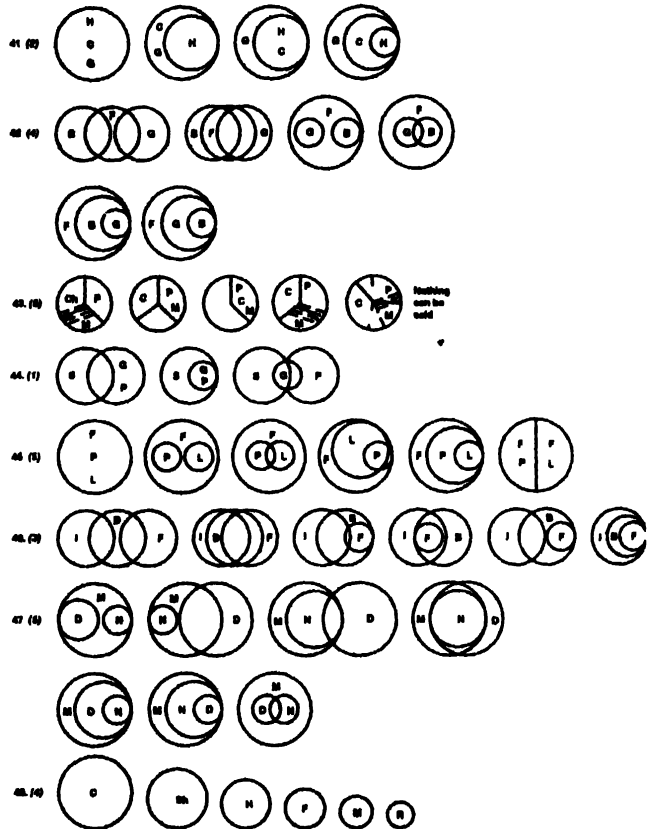


38. (2)

40. (5)

39. (1)

The next type of questions are best solved by drawing diagrams of all the probable situations and then reaching the fool-proof conclusion. Let each element be represented by a circle irrespective of its size. Here are a few examples to provide you guidelines.



49. (2)

51. (5)

53. (3)

55. (5)

57. (3)

59. (5)

61. (4)

63. (1)

65. (2)

50. (4)

52. (1)

54. (3)

56. (2)

58. (1)

60. (3)

62. (3)

64. (5)

66. (4)

67. (2) The paragraph says nothing about the action taken by CAG but there seems a probability
68. (1) The last line of the paragraph confirms the conclusion
69. (2) Otherwise he wouldn't be doing it.
70. (4) Although the paragraph says nothing about the role of the minister but when jurisdiction is referred, there is a hint of rapport between the minister and the private secretary.

Short Notes on National News

INDIA-USA Sanctions lifted

US President Bill Clinton has signed into law the authorisation to waive sanctions against India. This waiver would allow development and military training programmes to continue. It would also lift restrictions on activities of US banks in India.

But, in case of Pakistan, Clinton decided to waive only two economic sanctions—relating to ban on commercial lending by US banks and on agricultural credit guarantees.

The sanctions against both countries, pursuant to Section 102 (b) of Arms Export Control Act, also known as Glen Amendment, were imposed soon after the nuclear tests in 1998.

The sanctions were partially lifted through waiver provisions of Agriculture Export Relief Act (AERA), 1998 and India-Pakistan Relief Act (IPRA) (1998). The US Congress passed the IPRA of 1998 on October 21, 1998. Section 902 of the Act (the Brownback Amendment I) authorized the President to waive "for a period of not more than a year upon enactment of the Act", certain parts of the Glen Amendment sanctions.

The IPRA, 1998 and AERA, 1998 expired on October 21, 1999.

Indian response to the US move was positive, yet understated. This was seen as part of India's strategy to continue talking to the US from a position of strength, without assuming an unduly aggressive posture.

The waiver would put some critical research projects like Light Combat

Do You Know...

1990-2000 will be observed as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). The World Disaster Reduction Day 1999 was observed on October 13.

Killer cyclone wreaks havoc in Orissa



On the early hours of October 29, 1999, Orissa was completely shattered by the worst-ever cyclones of the present century. The frenzied storm brought lives of the people to an absolute halt.

The massive and merciless super-cyclone, with wind speeds exceeding 260 km per hour, left more than 20,000 dead and displaced some 10 million. Such was the fury of nature that nothing except lifeless concrete structures survived.

The worst affected districts were Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Puri, Khurda, Bhadrakh and Balasore. The port city of Paradip was one of the worst affected areas.

Physical infrastructures, including school and college buildings and government offices were severely damaged, therefore, unlike the previous cyclones, these could not be used as rest-sheds for the evacuees. All major district roads were either washed out or blocked by uprooted trees. Electricity and

telecommunication was badly damaged.

Crops loss was 100 per cent. Food for consumption at the household level was either buried or destroyed. All sources of drinking water were contaminated or destroyed.

Every Gram panchayat saw death of livestock ranging from 200-500. Most artisans have lost their workshops, tools and other machinery.

In nutshell, the damage can be said to be near total loss of normal livelihood for next six months.

The survivors have now to bear the brunt of epidemics.

The Central government has announced a relief package of Rs 300 crore, in addition to Rs 250 crore released by the Prime Minister.

As per the Indian meteorological scientists, the century's second worst cyclone behaved exactly as was predicted. The scientists, using data interpretation mathematical models, forecast 48 hours in advance that a cyclone with 220 km per hour wind speed would hit the Orissa coast.

A super cyclone is one whose intensity—wind speed encountered in the core area of a tropical cyclone—equals or is more than 226 km per hour. The wind speed in the Orissa cyclone was 240 km per hour, next to the Andhra event of 1977, when the wind speed touched 260 km per hour.

Paradip port was hit by a wall of water as high as a three-storeyed building.

According to some officials, the number of dead could have been restricted had Orissa government built cyclone shelters. In Bangladesh, when a cyclone had hit in 1997, more than one million people had sought protection in shelters meant for much disasters. The human toll was, thus, limited to 111.

Even Andhra Pradesh has cyclone shelters, which were constructed after the 1977 cyclone had left 10,000 dead.

The pre-disaster management plans were non-existent in Orissa. It is hoped that the latest tragedy will wake up the authorities concerned and the governments will be better prepared in times to come.

Aircraft (LCA) back on the rail.

Meanwhile, the visit of US energy secretary Bill Richardson officially restarted the strategic dialogue with US. Mr Richardson, the first Cabinet member of the US administration to visit India after the new government was sworn in, reiterated the agenda for Indo-US dialogue—CTBT, FMCT, nuclear and missile restraint and export controls.

The two governments have decided to resume cooperation in the energy sector. The new energy cooperation would incorporate environmental aspects of energy development, like Clean Development Mechanisms (CMDs). The US is keen to improve scientific cooperation in this area, which is not to say that nuclear energy would be on the agenda.

ECONOMY & PLANNING

Vajpayee government's agenda

PRESIDENT K.R. Narayanan's address to the Parliament—the first opportunity for the Vajpayee government to articulate its resolve—sketched plans for second generation reforms to achieve multi-sectoral growth. The President said that the government would provide a strong policy and regulatory leadership, the private sector would ensure dynamism and efficiency of competitive environment; and the local democratic institutions and the civil society would be strengthened to bring enthusiastic participation by the people. Some of the reforms which on the government's agenda are: full five-year term for Lok Sabha, State Assemblies; 33% reservation of seats in Parliament for women; free education for girls up to college level; introduction of Lok Pal Bill to check corruption from top; legal status for

Do You Know...

World Post Day was observed on October 9, 1999,
World Standards Day was observed on October 14, 1999.
Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Day was observed on October 21, 1999.
World Thrift Day was observed on October 30, 1999.

Economic News

RBI cuts CRR rate

In its Monetary and Credit policy for the second half of 1999-2000, Reserve Bank of India has slashed the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by one per cent from 10% to 9%. It also removed the 10 per cent incremental CRR on FCNR-B deposits. These two measures coupled together would result in the infusion of Rs 8,081 crore into the banking system.

Although the CRR was cut by one per cent, the RBI indicated that banks would not lower their Prime Lending Rates (PLRs) due to constraints they faced.

The interest rate surcharge of 30 per cent on import finance has also been withdrawn. The RBI also granted banks the freedom to fix the interest rate on overdue export bills against the hitherto stipulated minimum 20 per cent interest.

NRIs can now obtain rupee loans and overdrafts against security of shares/securities/debentures or immovable properties held for other than investment purposes in India.

The freedom to lend without reference to prime lending rates has been made applicable to loans governed by refinancing schemes of term lending institutions, lending to intermediary agencies, discounting of bills and advances/overdraft against domestic/NRE/FCNR(B) deposits.

It also announced that regulation of money Market Mutual Funds (MMFs) would be shifted from RBI to SEBI once the latter puts in place a regulatory framework. However, prior clearance will have to be taken for undertaking MMF activity, before approaching the SEBI for registration.

RBI also indicated that banks would have to reduce their exposure limit in a company to 20 per cent of net worth against 25 per cent now. It also announced special facility for Y2K preparations.

Central Vigilance Commissioner; Delhi to be full State; Statehood for Vananchal, Chattisgarh, Uttaranchal; corporatisation of State Electricity boards; Railway Reforms Commission for better, safer and cheaper trains; law to promote e-commerce and internet revolution; TRAI and Telegraph Acts to be amended; world class telephone system after DoT becomes India telecom; automatic clearance route for FDI for \$ 10 billion inflow a year; expenditure commission will review subsidies, spending of government, new law on bankruptcy, for closure, mergers and debt recovery; 2 million homes to be built each year; fencing of Indo-Bangla border; and steps to combat terrorism. The government also proposed to introduce a comprehensive electoral reforms bill.

SCANDALS

Bofors chargesheet filed

LATE Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi has been named as an accused, for the first time, in the 13-year old controversial Bofors pay-off case. The Rs 1437 crore gun deal was signed when he was the Prime Minister. Rajiv's name figures as an

"accused not sent for trial" as he is no longer alive.

The CBI has also chargesheeted Italian businessman Ottavio Quattrocchi, former Bofors agent Win Chadha, former Defence Secretary S.K. Bhatnagar, the Swedish company AB Bofors and its then Chief Martin Ardbo.

Investigations were on to ascertain the role of Quattrocchi's wife Maria, Dubai-based Chadha's son Harsh and three of the Hinduja Brothers. The Bofors company is alleged to have paid Rs 64 crore as kickbacks to clinch the 155 mm Howitzer field guns contract.

CBI alleged that Quattrocchi's AE Services got 7.3 million dollars, while Chadha's Swenska got 27 million dollars as kickbacks.

Meanwhile, the Congress party's demand for deletion of Rajiv Gandhi's name in CBI chargesheet has been rejected by the government.

Meanwhile, special judge Ajit Bharihoke has issued a non-bailable warrant against Italian businessman Ottavio Quattrocchi and has summoned four other accused, namely Win Chadha, former Defence Secretary S.K. Bhatnagar,

former Bofors President Martin Ardbo and the Swedish company A.B. Bofors (now renamed Celsius), represented through its CEO.

CBI has placed the original chargesheet and supporting documents before the judge.

The judge said, "I have perused the report, relied upon the documents and statements. In my opinion there is sufficient *prima facie* material on record to proceed against the accused... accordingly I take cognisance."

INDIA-UAE

Three treaties signed

DURING the Indian visit of United Arab Emirates (UAE) Minister for Justice and Islamic Affairs Mohammed Bin Nakhira Al Dhaheri, India and UAE signed three treaties. These include an extradition treaty, an agreement on mutual assistance in criminal matters, and another on judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters.

The extradition treaty would provide a legal framework for seeking extradition of fugitive criminals, including those involved in terrorism and economic offences.

Under the treaty, extradition would be possible irrespective of whether the crime was committed before or after the entry into force of this treaty.

This would also give India the power to ask for the recall of dreaded terrorist and underground don Dawood Ibrahim and Bofors agent Win Chadha.

The agreement on judicial cooperation in civil and commercial

matters aimed at facilitating the widest measure of legal assistance in pursuing cases in these fields. It would be possible to serve summons and other judicial documents issued by the courts of one country in another's territory.

The judicial authority of one country could also, at the request of other's, take evidence and courts of one country would be able to execute decrees and pass arbitration awards in territory of another.

The agreement on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters is aimed at strengthening cooperation between two countries in the completion of investigation and prosecution in all crimes, including those related to terrorism.

E-COMMERCE

Cabinet nod for cyberlaw

THE Union Cabinet has decided to put together a special Cyber law (infotech) which is set to override and amend a number of other Acts, to recognise electronic commerce for the first time.

The law will legalise electronic signatures on the net, besides software and hardware that goes with e-commerce.

The law will amend the Banking Act, the Indian Evidence Act, The Telegraph Act and Company Law Act.

The new law which may be brought under the info-tech policy or may be known as the Cyber law, would act as an overriding law.

This law would cover all amendments at one shot. This would enable the government to see through path-breaking changes at a quicker pace. Otherwise, separate amendments may take too much time due to the parliamentary process.

The Congress and its splinter party Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) formed the government in Maharashtra, headed by Vilasrao Deshmukh. As none of parties in fray won a clear majority, Congress (75 seats) and NCP (58 seats) agreed to form a coalition government after days of bargaining.

LEGISLATION

Money Laundering Bill introduced

○N October 29, 1999, Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha introduced in Lok

Sabha the much hyped bill to prevent money laundering.

Acquisition, possession or owning of money, movable and immovable assets, from crime, especially drugs and narcotics transactions, would tantamount to money laundering. Money laundering has been defined as a cognisable crime.

Even concealing information on proceeds or gains of the crime made within India or abroad is regarded as money laundering.

According to the proposed legislation, those committing offences of money laundering are punishable with rigorous imprisonment ranging from 3-7 years, which could be extended to 10 years. Added to that would be a fine of Rs 5 lakh. Apart from corporates and individuals, banking and non-banking financial companies have also been covered under the purview of the Bill.

The adjudicating Authority, headed by a chairperson, will have the right to confiscate properties of those who resort to money laundering.

The adjudicating Authority would not be below the rank of a joint secretary at the Centre. An administration could be appointed by the Authority to manage the confiscated assets and properties.

Banking companies, financial institutions and intermediaries are expected to furnish transaction records to the Authority and not the Income Tax Commissioner. Failure to maintain or submit such transaction records would attract a fine ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1 lakh.

Since the Authority has been given a quasi-judicial status, none of its rulings can be contested in local courts. Individuals or corporates can approach the three-member Appellate Tribunal that is being set up specifically to deal with such cases of laundering.

Local courts have no jurisdiction on rulings of the tribunal. But, High Courts and the Supreme Court are entitled to hear cases against the rulings of the appellate tribunal.

The authority has been given the power to search and seize properties and liquid funds amassed through laundering. The adjudicating Authority

Do You Know...

The number of people living below the poverty line went up by 4 per cent between 1993 and 1998. According to the Planning Commission estimates, which are based on NSS data, there were about 36 per cent people below the poverty line in 1993, which increased to 40 per cent in 1998. The employment growth rate in this period was 1.5-1.7 per cent, which was much below the rise in labour force which grew at 2.5 per cent.

can arrest persons involved in money laundering.

The Bill is in consonance with the commitments made by India at the United Nations' Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The Basle Statement, to which India is a party, seeks to prevent laundering of money in banks.

OIL

ONGC to spend \$ 15 billion in Bombay High

THE public sector ONGC plans to spend around \$ 15 billion in its Bombay High fields, to increase the recovery of oil from the present range of around 28 per cent to anywhere between 35 and 40 per cent. Given that ONGC's largest-ever find, Bombay High has reserves or oil-in-place (OIP) of 1,600 million tonnes. A 10 per cent hike in the recovery rate would mean that an additional 160 million tonnes of oil could be extracted from the field during its remaining life.

In addition, ONGC also hopes to be able to hike the recovery factor in its Neelam Oilfield from the current expectation of 26 per cent to 32 per cent.

The production from Bombay High has fallen from a high of 4 lakh barrels a day in the mid-80s to around 2.5 lakh barrels today.

According to initial estimates, Neelam had 160 million tonnes of oil, but this was later revised downwards to 109 million. Due to bad management of the field, estimates of the recoverable oil also fell dramatically—production fell from a high of 95,000 barrels a day in September 1994 to around 28,000 and then stabilised at 32,000 currently.

Advanced 3-D studies have now been done for both the fields to map reserves. This will enable ONGC to pinpoint the exact locations where oil remains.

The fields have also started using gel technology to stop the seepage from one

well structure to another.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Militants dare to attack inside Corps Hqs

ON November 4, 1999, Lashkar-e-Toiba militants stormed the heavily guarded Badamibagh cantonment in Srinagar and killed seven unarmed Army personnel, including Major P. Purushottam, Public Relations Officer.

In the counter-attack, two of the militants were killed while the third escaped. One of the dead militants has been identified as Abu Takha, the Srinagar Chief of Toiba.

The attack coincided with a conference of militant group in Lahore in Pakistan, where tens of thousands of men collected and condemned India and USA, and vowed to continue their holy wars.

India has condemned the Pakistan military for granting permission for the meeting, which it said was proof of Islamabad giving continued "support, sustenance and space" to the militants.

Concerned over increasing militant attacks on the Army and security forces' camps, and the resultant psychological fallout, intelligence agencies have suggested more aggressive and frequent cordon-and-search operations in Kashmir valley.

There have been more than a dozen such attacks in the last four months. About 400 highly-trained and motivated Pakistan-sponsored militants are believed to be hiding in the valley to carry out these attacks.

Aggressive action is urgently required to restore the sagging morale of the security forces in the valley as also send out a befitting message to militant sympathisers across the border.

BANKING SECTOR

Steps for reforms

THE government is setting a fast pace for the banking sector reforms. In the first phase, it is considering privatising public sector banks including State Bank of India, announcing a separate voluntary retirement scheme for the banking sector and giving more teeth to

debt recovery tribunal.

The government is also planning to amend the Sick Industries Companies Act so that the banks can recover bad debts faster than they can at present. The number of tribunals are also planned to be increased to 15, from the present 10.

UTTAR PRADESH

Gupta New CM

IN an unusual display of authority, Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee and top BJP leaders decided on November 9, 1999 to appoint veteran party leader Ram Prakash Gupta as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, replacing Mr Kalyan Singh, who was asked to resign.

Mr Gupta was chosen after the central BJP leaders decided not to choose any Brahmin, Rajput or backward caste leader, to avoid falling into the "caste cauldron" in the State.

It is hoped that Mr Gupta would enthuse and unite BJP workers, who have been caught in the squabbles of senior leaders for a long time. As Mr Gupta does not belong to either anti- or pro-Kalyan Singh groups, it is expected that he should be able to steer the government and the party until the Assembly elections due in October 2001.

INDIA-AUSTRIA

President Narayanan's visit

PRESIDENT K.R. Narayanan visited Austria on November 9, 1999, on a four-day official visit. This was the first visit by any Indian Head of State to Austria.

President Narayanan described talks with his Austrian counterpart, Thomas Klestil, as "useful", as both had much in common to discuss.

The President traced the historical links between the two countries, pointing out that Indian culture and ideas had reached Austria as early as the 16th century.

Incidentally, the Museum of Applied Arts in Vienna has the largest collection of illustrated manuscripts from the *Hamza Nama* (1562-77), crafted for Emperor Akbar in the highest tradition of Indo-Persian style.

Two bilateral agreements were signed during the visit.

Do You Know...

Mrs Sonia Gandhi, who took oath as the Leader of Opposition in Parliament, is the first woman to occupy the post.

Short Notes on International News

PAKISTAN

Under Military rule again

AFTER 11 years of democracy, Pakistan once again reverted to military rule on October 12, 1999 when Army Chief General Pervez Musharraf led a bloodless Army coup to dismiss Prime Minister Nawaz Sharief's government. Later, Musharraf assumed the powers as the new Chief Executive of Pakistan.

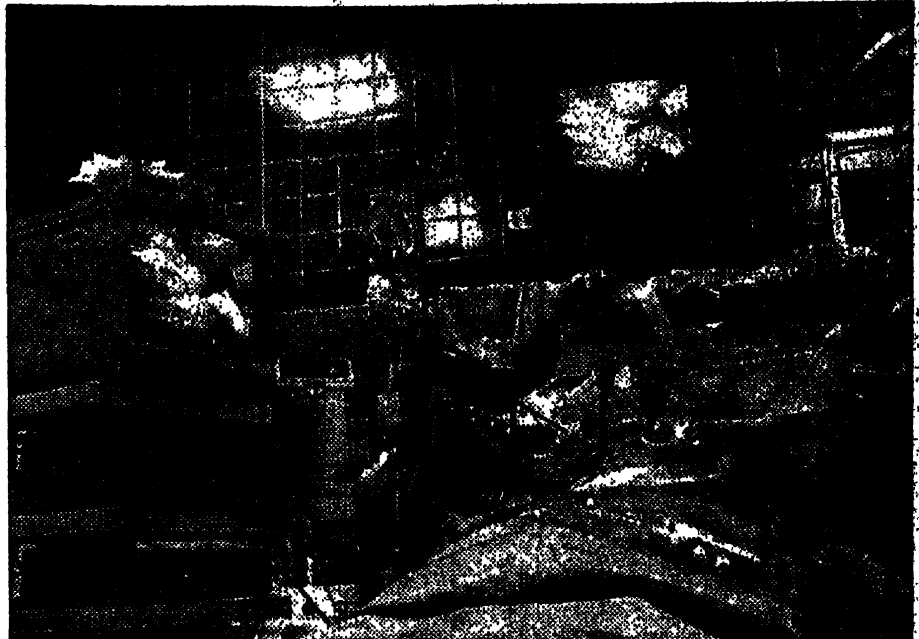
State of emergency was declared. Federal and the provincial government ceased to exist. Senate, National Assembly and provincial assemblies were suspended. Constitution was put in abeyance and superior courts were barred from admitting any petition challenging the acts of Army Chief.

President Rafiq Tarar was, however, asked to continue in office.

Though 'martial law' was not imposed, political observers believe that the emergency order is similar to martial law, even though the word 'martial law' did not form the part of the order.

The Army coup came when Sharief fired Musharraf, while he was on a visit to Sri Lanka. Sharief appointed head of the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) Lt Gen Khwaja Ziauddin in Musharraf's place.

The conflict between Musharraf and Sharief had developed when the latter ordered the militants to withdraw from Kargil. Musharraf is believed to have orchestrated the incursion into Kargil and



A voice activated robot, "Zeus", proceeds for the first time to remove a patient's gall-bladder in a surgery led by Professor Jacques Marescaux at the university medical center of Strasbourg recently. The surgery lasted 45 minutes and the patient left the hospital two days later.

withdrawal under US pressure was considered humiliating to Pakistan Army.

Besides, Sharief committed many other mistakes, which ultimately led to his fall. He weakened the Supreme Court and stripped the President of the power to dismiss the government. He also intimidated the opposition and the press. Under his rule, the economy reached on brink of collapse. Sharief alienated the military by interfering in appointments and blaming it for Kargil misadventure.

While the Army action was condemned abroad, it was welcomed in Pakistan by the public, where anger at official corruption had reached breaking point.

But continued public support to the army rule would depend on military's ability to bring corrupt officials to book and to instigate measures to revive a national economy, that is on brink of bankruptcy.

The US reaction to the coup appeared to be in a two-track mode. While, on one hand, it called for restoration of democracy and, at the same time, it acknowledged that Sharief's rule had become corrupt and autocratic. US also felt that the restoration of civilian rule would not be easy.

The US, however, slapped sanctions

in response to military coup. The US sanctions were under the Section 508 of Foreign Operations Act.

Immediately after the coup India put its military on high alert along the borders between the countries. Later, Gen Musharraf expressed willingness to normalise ties with India by reviving the Lahore Declaration, but the offer was rejected by New Delhi.

In a confidence-building initiative with India, Pakistan started a partial withdrawal of troops from its international border with India. But, the pull back did not extend to troops along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Musharraf faces many dilemmas. One is how to deal with the deposed ruler Sharief. If he is "eliminated", like Zulfikar Bhutto, this would invite an international backlash. On the other hand, exile could enable Sharief to become a rallying point once the new regime's popularity declines. Immediately after the coup, Sharief was placed under house arrest. The deposed leader, along with senior leaders of the previous government faces charges of "high treason" and "sedition". These charges were slapped for conspiring a mutiny in the army, and refusing to allow a PIA plane carrying Musharraf to land on

Do You Know...

Jaya Ganga, Vijay Singh's acclaimed and celebrated film based on his novel, was premiered in London and was cheered repeatedly. The film has been shown in 21 countries and at 28 film festivals.

October 12, thus endangering lives of more than 200 passengers.

The Pakistani opposition leaders Benazir Bhutto, chairperson of Pakistan People's Party, Altaf Hussain, Chief of Muttahida Quami Movement and Imran Khan, Chief of Tehriq-i-Insaaf, welcomed the Army coup.

Sectarian violence continues

IN first week of October, 1999, before the Army coup, Pakistan was ravaged by its worst-ever sectarian violence which took a heavy toll of life and property.

After six months of calm, sectarian violence between Sunni majority and Shitte minority erupted, mainly in Karachi. As the toll of human life grew, a Shitte organisation declared open war against Sunni factions.

Meanwhile, a Minister of the Sharief government blamed India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) for engineering the sectarian violence.

However, the law enforcement agencies believed that the Taliban were behind the killings.

Sunni militants accused Shitte majority—Iran of aiding Shitte groups in Pakistan while Saudi Arabia is accused of helping Sunni militants.

INDONESIA

Wahid becomes President

ON October 21, 1999, Abdurrahman Wahid, a moderate Muslim cleric, was elected Indonesia's fourth President. The move ushered in a truly democratic government after four decades of authoritarian rule. The democratic process was strengthened further, when a day later, Megawati Sukarnoputri, leader of Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP), was elected Vice-President.

The newly constituted People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) voted

Wahid President, overlooking the claim of Megawati, the popular leader of the PDIP party, which won the highest number of seats, although not amounting to a clear majority in the 500-member House of Representatives (DPR). The parliamentary elections were held on June 7, 1999.

The electoral college for the presidency consists of the nominated members of the MPR—who represent special interests, military's non-elective mandarins, regional power brokers and so on—besides the newly elected members of Parliament, known as DPR.

Megawati contested for the post of President, but was defeated, as she failed to augment her party's strength, while Wahid with astute coalition building multiplied his numbers.

During its existence as a free State, Indonesia has seen two important leaders—Sukarno, Megawati's father, and Suharto, whose exit from office in May 1998 at the height of a popular uprising against him led to the current democratic resurgence.

Suharto was succeeded by Habibie, solely because he had the blessings of military Chief and also was the elected Vice-President at the time of uprising.

But, Indonesians were very dissatisfied during Habibie's rule. He was accused of shielding his mentor, Suharto, from being investigated for corruption and accumulation of ill-gotten wealth.

Indonesia's new pro-democracy President Wahid has announced many policy changes and declared that relations with the West would take a back seat to ties with Asia, particularly China. He also outlined various democratic and human rights reforms—which would renew nationalism in Indonesia. But, Wahid displayed that he is not inherently anti-West, when he declared that debt-burdened nation could not rebuild without foreign investment.

Also, experts say that given Wahid's blindness and frail health, Megawati's election as Vice-President means that a popular and potentially strong leader would only be a heartbeat away from presidency.

AFGHANISTAN

UN imposes sanctions

THE UN Security Council has imposed sanctions on Afghanistan's Taliban rulers until they surrender Saudi-born terrorist Osama bin Laden for trial. Laden has been charged with plotting the 1998 bombing of US embassies in Africa.

The US-initiated resolution received the votes of all 15 Security Council members. The sanctions would go into effect on November 14, 1999, after a 30-day grace period.

The sanctions require countries to ban flights by planes, owned, operated or leased by the Taliban, a Islamist group that controls about 80 per cent of Afghanistan. The sanctions also require countries to freeze bank accounts and property owned or controlled by Taliban.

The only exception would be for flights or funds approved in advance on humanitarian grounds by a watchdog sanctions committee to be set up by the Security Council.

Taliban rulers, however, rejected the UN sanctions. Instead, they contend that "Osama issue" is an Islamic issue and it should be resolved through a decision of Ulema (scholars) of three Islamic countries, including Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and a third Islamic country.

The US had already imposed its own sanctions against Taliban. It has frozen the assets of Afghanistan's national airline, Ariana Airline, and banned US investment and trade with area under Taliban control.

ARGENTINA

Opposition leader to become President

OPPPOSITION leader Fernando de la Rúa of Opposition Alliance, that bands together his social democratic party and leftists of all hues, claimed a victory in presidential elections.

De la Rúa capitalized on Argentina people's disenchantment with President Carlos Menem's flamboyant style and penchant for fast cars and celebrities.

Menem had been credited with modernizing Argentina and getting rid of hyper-inflation. But his image had been tarnished by a slew of corruption scandals.

The ruling Justicialist Party (PJ) had

Do You Know...

A cricket bat, created as a promotional for World Cup '99 by LG Electronics, has entered the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest of its kind. The bat measures 15.24 metres in length, 1.82 metres in width and 430 kg in weight.

put up Eduardo Duhalde as its presidential candidate. The PJ suffered its worst defeat in the history of Peronism—a movement inspired by the populist policies of Juan Domingo Peron, who ruled with his celebrated wife Evita in 1940s and 1950s.

Menem, unable to run for a third consecutive term under the Constitution, plans to run again in 2003.

De la Rúa has promised to maintain free market policies and fiscal austerity. He does not intend to change the peso-dollar parity Menem introduced in 1991. But, he promised to help those left by wayside by the radical economic transformation.

BRITAIN

Pinochet to be extradited

CHILE'S former dictator, General Augusto Pinochet, lost another battle to avoid extradition to Spain, where he would face trial for torturing political opponents during his 17-year rule. This ruling was given by a London magistrate.

While the ruling is a blow to Pinochet, who was arrested in London in 1998, he would not be immediately sent to Spain as his lawyers would appeal to a higher court.

Pinochet had seized power in Chile with the support of US and had overthrown the elected government of Salvador Allende. His regime had become a by-word for repression. Thousands of left-wing opponents were tortured and executed.

The case to prevent his extradition was unprecedented in Britain.

Here was a former head of State, who faced extradition not to his own country but to a third country, to be tried for acts he allegedly committed in his own country. It raised questions of sovereignty and jurisdiction.

Do You Know...

Henry Ford, who founded Ford Motor Company in 1903, is Fortune magazine's businessman of the century. He was selected from a series of profiles of 20th century business leaders published in the magazine over six months.



China celebrated 50 years of communist rule on October 1, 1999. A grand parade at Tiananmen Square and functions all over the country marked the celebration of China's existence as the People's Republic of China.

It was on this day in 1949 that Mao Zedong had declared before a packed Tiananmen Square that "the Chinese people had stood up." It had fought the Japanese for many years, who tried to colonise the country. The rise of the communists after World War II marked a watershed in history. They then consolidated their position under the strong leadership of Chairman Mao and Premier Chou-en-lai. Agriculture was collectivised, industry nationalised, and centralised economic planning adopted. In 1958, the "Great Leap Forward" attempted to force industrialisation at the expense of agriculture, which was run as State communes. It was a disaster of great proportions. As a result, about 30 million people starved. In 1966 Mao launched the Cultural Revolution, in which fanatical Red Guards turned society upside down. The result was once again economic disaster. Countless lives were ruined in the brutal "revolution" that took place. It is said that never before in human history has so much harm been done to so many people, with so little remorse.

After Mao's death in 1976, power shifted to the moderates and Deng took power. Rural communes were abolished in favour of private farming, which saw a 30% increase in grain production during 1978-84. There were attempts at privatising State industries, but here the results were disappointing. China is today plagued with rising unemployment, environmental problems of great magnitude and an impoverished countryside.

There is political unrest as well. Student protests reached a crescendo in 1989, when the pro-democracy protesters were severely suppressed. Thereafter, China has implemented a unique "one country, two systems" approach in which the people have economic freedom, but may not have any say as to how the political affairs are run. Thus capitalism and communism has co-existed in the country.

China has made rapid progress in the last 20 years, when reforms were implemented. It has emerged as the largest producer of foodgrains, it has the seventh largest economy. However, its per capita GDP was ranked 81. The UN Human Development Index puts China at 107. It is faced with many problems, among them social unrest, which it suppresses brutally. It has refused to follow international rules and has secretly helped Pakistan build the atomic bomb and is now engaged in rubbing out the Tibetan identity. It has also been accused of stealing nuclear secrets from the US.

The anniversary of China's 50 years ignored many bitter truths. The celebrations did not express regret for the faulty policies of past leaders, nor were not used to chalk out a plan for the future, but to show that the communist party, under Jiang Zemin, was firmly in control. It was ironical that a country, which is today the best argument for capitalism, should be celebrating 50 years of repressive communist rule.

USA**Missile defence system tested**

A new missile defence system being developed by the USA passed its first test in October 1999. Two missiles were launched from thousands of kilometres apart and were made to collide in mid-space. It was like shooting one bullet with another.

An unarmed Minuteman missile was the target missile which was hit by Extra-atmospheric Kill Vehicle (EKV) over the Pacific Ocean.

Booster rockets to carry the EKV, special radar system to track incoming missiles and a command network to control the system are, however, still under development.

The system is built to counter a ICBM attack by a "rogue country" or a terrorist organisation. It cannot, however, defend a barrage of missiles launched by a major power.

MIDDLE EAST**Israel-Palestine agree on first land route**

ISRAEL and Palestine have agreed to open the first 47-km long "safe passage" land route between the West

Bank and Gaza Strip, which would enable Palestinians to cross freely between the two areas.

The Gaza Strip on the Mediterranean Coast and land-locked West Bank are separated by Israeli territory.

The deal, which came after four years of postponing by previous Israeli governments, was approved by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, after a meeting with Palestinian negotiators, who had returned from Jerusalem after hammering out the accord with Israelis.

The safe passage land link between the two areas is a significant achievement for Arafat, who had been insisting on the issue for a long time, to help establish an independent Palestine State. However, some Israelis fear that the passage could encourage terrorist attacks.

Israeli authorities have told Palestinians that the passage would not be used to detain Palestinians. This is a major breakthrough in the implementation of the peace deal which was revived in Egypt's Sharm El Sheikh resort in September 1999, when Israeli Premier Ehud Barak and Arafat signed a revised Wye Accord.

SOUTH AFRICA**ANC government bid to outlaw 'hurtful words'**

THE South African government is set to introduce a controversial legislation banning the use of "hurtful and abusive" words such as "Kaffir" and "boer" and establishing special courts to combat racial discrimination. The bill is called as Promotion of equality and prevention of unfair discrimination bill.

Critics denounced the African National Congress's planned law as draconian and a violation of constitutional guarantees of free speech. They say, this will curb media reporting and political debate.

The bills' defenders say that "hate speech" is still very much a part of South African life and needs to be curbed. The bill forbids the publication of "propaganda, ideas or theories based on unfair racial stereotypes", and the promotion of inequality or prejudice. Publication is defined as "any speech or any form of communication which seeks to convey a message or expression of ideas, opinions or beliefs". This would

include the press, political speeches and art. As the draft law stands.

NUCLEAR ARMS RACE**US Senate rejects CTBT ratification**

ON October 14, 1999, the US Senate rejected the ratification of Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which bans nuclear testing, by a vote of 51-48. The ratification of international treaties requires a two-thirds legislative majority in the US.

The US Senate, dominated by Republican Party, voted along party lines except for four Republicans who joined their democratic colleagues in support of CTBT.

The US had signed the treaty in 1996 and forwarded it to the Senate for ratification a year later. But, the arch-conservative Chairman of Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Jesse Helms, refused to take up the measure.

However, Senate Republicans insisted on rushing the treaty to the floor of the House, after UN Secretary General announced his intention to convene 'Vienna Conference' on CTBT.

Observers fear that Senate rejection of CTBT may lessen the chance of it ever coming into force. The treaty comes into force only if all 44 nuclear capable States listed in it have ratified it. So far 21 countries have ratified it. Britain and France are the only two permanent members of Security Council to have signed and ratified the treaty.

If any of the 44 nuclear-capable States do not sign and ratify, the treaty does not come into force. The "entry into force" clause was put by Britain, in hope of getting reluctant members to sign.

China and Russia have not ratified, "waiting" for the US Senate to do so. India and Pakistan have not even signed the treaty.

Supporters of the treaty in the US Senate had warned that rejection could increase pressure on emerging nuclear powers like Pakistan and India to conduct more tests.

Experts, however, say that the international verification system to monitor all nuclear tests and assess their correct dimensions, which is necessary to ensure compliance of the CTBT, is not adequately prepared. The US Central

Do You Know...

Six toys are competing for the label of "Toy of the Century". They are

Actionman: The first and most successful male doll, created by Stanley Weston in 1965. It was sold as GI Joe in the USA.

Monopoly: Devised in 1933 in the US by Charles Darrow.

Rubik's Cube: Invented by Hungarian Erno Rubik in 1974 and was an instant hit.

Barbie: Created in 1959 by the founders of US toy company, Mattel, it has been an enduring favourite of girls for years.

Scrabble: Launched in 1931 as Lexico but the game had flopped. It was relaunched in 1948 as Scrabble and became a world-wide hit.

Yo-yo: Frank Duncan marketed the Yo-yo (from Philippines) in 1928 and the toy became an instant hit.

Intelligence Agency has warned that it cannot monitor low-level nuclear tests by Russia, precisely enough to ensure compliance with the CTBT.

The rejection of CTBT by US Senate has given the Indian government a much-needed respite from unrelenting US pressure to sign the treaty.

The United Nations is also "trying to pressurize" India to sign the treaty. In the last week of September, 1999, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan invited India to attend the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT. The conference was held in Vienna from October 6 to 8 at the request of the States that have ratified the treaty. Its stated purpose was to consider and decide on measures, consistent with international law, to facilitate the early Entry into Force of the CTBT. But, the Indian government had politely declined the invitation.

ARMENIA

Prime Minister killed in Parliament

FIVE gunmen burst into the Parliament building of Armenia and killed Prime Minister Vazgen Sarkisian and seven others in Yerevan capital of Armenia. They also took lawmakers and senior officials as hostages, who were held overnight in the Parliament building, but were later released after surrender by the gunmen.

This breakthrough came after President Robert Kochari negotiated with the gunmen's leader and promised that they would be given a fair trial. The leader of the gunmen, Nairi Unanyan, an extreme nationalist and former journalist, said that they had acted to save Armenia from disintegration and the attack was a

patriotic action. Unanyan said that he regretted having killed the seven other victims, but Sarkisian was killed for having presided over Armenia's ruin and impoverishment.

Armenia, like many ex-Soviet Republics, has been mired in economic chaos for years, stuck between the Soviet system and largely unsuccessful efforts to build a market economy.

Some analysts say that the attack was linked to the battle for control of the anticipated oil flows from the recently discovered Caspian Shelf, which has proven reserves of about 40 billion barrels. With potentially 2000 billion more it would make Armenia the Saudi Arabia of the coming century.

JAPAN

Nuclear accident

JAPAN'S worst-ever nuclear accident, which occurred on September 30, 1999, at the nuclear plant in Tokaimura, 140 km north west of Tokyo, critically injured three workers at the plant and exposed 52 others to radiation.

The Science and Technology agency, in charge of nation's fuel policy, could be held responsible. The agency failed to ensure that the operators of the Tokaimura uranium processing plant were complying with proper safety procedures to prevent accident. Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi later said that government would review safety measures for nuclear facilities to prevent a report of the accident. Also, Japan's power authorities launched nation-wide security checks on all nuclear facilities.

Japan operates 51 nuclear plants, which meet 37 per cent of nation's electrical needs.

Japan, which has no crude oil of its own, pushed the development of nuclear energy in the 1970s after a sharp rise in oil prices.

RUSSIA

Chechnya once again becomes war zone

RUSSIAN jets pounded targets in the breakaway republic of Chechnya incessantly in the first week of October, 1999 and ground troops moved in to deal firmly with the government in Grozny and with the Chechen warlords running

rampant in the northern Caucasus.

The present conflict started when some Islamic militia, based in Chechnya, attempted to spread the message of secession in neighbouring Dagestan. After the militia were repulsed from Dagestan by Russian forces, a series of explosions rocked Moscow and other Russian cities and claimed more than 300 lives.

Moscow blamed the bombings on the militants and launched strikes against Chechnya.

Later, in first week of October, Moscow fortified the air strikes with ground invasion of Chechnya. This was the first ground invasion of Chechnya since the Russian Army got bogged down in the 1994-1996 Russia-Chechnya war, that resulted in *de-facto* independence for Chechnya.

Later, Russia said it no longer recognized Chechnya's independence. US and foreign powers, however, expressed concern over the Russian influx in Chechnya's territory.

Russia does not want to occupy the entire republic, but wants to create a Russian-controlled security zone in which Chechens who want to live under federal law may find refuge. Russian President has vowed to get rid of "terrorism" in the region, while Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov ruled out any talks with Moscow. He also declared martial law and threatened *Jehad* or holy war against invading Russian forces.

EAST TIMOR

Indonesia endorses referendum

ON October 20, 1999, Indonesia formally gave up its claim to East Timor. With this the way for independence for East Timor has been cleared, after a transitional period of UN rule.

Indonesia's legislature ratified East Timor's August 30 plebiscite in which it had opted to secede after almost 24 years of often-brutal rule under Indonesia.

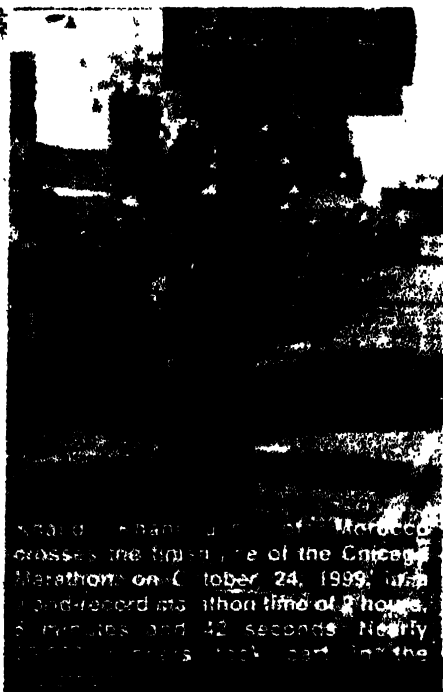
But the Indonesian House did "criticize" the interim President B.J. Habibie for allowing the referendum without consulting the assembly.

Meanwhile East Timorese independence leader Xanana Gusmao returned to his homeland after a long gap. He had been arrested by Indonesian authorities seven years ago. He is likely to become East Timor's President.

Do You Know...

Transparency International, a Berlin-based organisation, has ranked India 73rd among 99 countries in its "corruption perception index". India scored just 2.9. The country has been ranked lower than even Namibia, Belarus, Latvia and Ghana. Denmark scored a perfect 10 and was the cleanest country, followed by Finland and Sweden, ranked second and third along with New Zealand.

Sports



ATHLETICS

Rath Marathon

Heikam Ingoba Meetei from Manipur won the men's title and SAF games gold-medallist Ringzen Angmo from Leh won women's title of the 42.19 km Rath Marathon held in Delhi, completing it in 2:26:14 and 2:50:07, respectively.



Dancers perform a story about Chinese history and the Olympic spirit during the opening ceremony of the 34th Gymnastics World Championships on October 8, 1999, in Tianjin, a port city about 150km south of Beijing. Romania took the women's team event while China were winners in men team event, completing a hat-trick of world title triumphs.

BADMINTON

Yonex German Open Championships

Indian national champion Pullela Gopichand went down fighting in three games to China's Xia Xuanze in the finals of the 2-star Yonex German Open Championships in Duisburg.

BOXING

National Championships

Asian games gold-medallist Dingko Singh beat Zotham Mawai of Mizoram to claim the bantamweight gold, as the Services and Railways shared the honours, winning four gold medals each at the National boxing championship at Shimla.

CHESS

Asian team championship

India won the bronze in the men's and women's section of the Asian team championship held at Shenyang. Uzbekistan led the tally with 23 points.

CRICKET

International cricket awards

Rahul Dravid was awarded the Ceat International cricketer of the World Cup award and South African all-rounder

Jacques Kallis the international cricketer of the year 1998-99. South Africa was declared the international team of the year 1998-99.

Coca Cola Trophy

Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by 88 runs in the tri-nation cricket tournament final at Sharjah to lift the Coca Cola Cup trophy.

India-New Zealand Test Series

India took the 3-Test series 1-0. While the first Test at Mohali ended in a draw, India took the



Laila All of Los Angeles, daughter of boxing great Muhammad All celebrates her victory over April Fowler of Michigan City, Indiana after their match on October, 8, 1999 at the Turning Stone Casino Resort in Verona, New York, USA. All made her debut as a professional fighter in the middleweight division, knocking out Fowler after 31 seconds of the first round.

second Test played at Kanpur, by 8 wickets.

The third Test, played at Ahmedabad, ended in a tame draw. The highlight of the match was a double century by Sachin Tendulkar, his first in Test cricket.

GOLF

Dunhill Cup

Spain scored a 2-1 victory over Australia to lift their first Dunhill Cup title.

GYMNASTICS

Rhythmic gymnastics world championships

Russia won the team event in the 23rd Rhythmic gymnastics world championships held at Osaka, Japan.

TENNIS

National Championships, 1999

Sunil Kumar has become the youngest men national champion beating the record of Zeeshan Ali. Sai Jayalakshmi took the women's national title. The championships were held at New Delhi.

Current General Knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

IDNDR International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

WLL: Wireless in Local Loop

DAYS

October 12: Day of the 6 billion

According to the UN, the population of the world passed the 6 billion mark on this day

AWARDS

Booker Prize, 1999

South African writer J M Coetzee is the winner for his novel, *Disgrace*. He had won the Booker in 1983 for *The Life and Times of Michael K*

Kalidas Samman, 1999

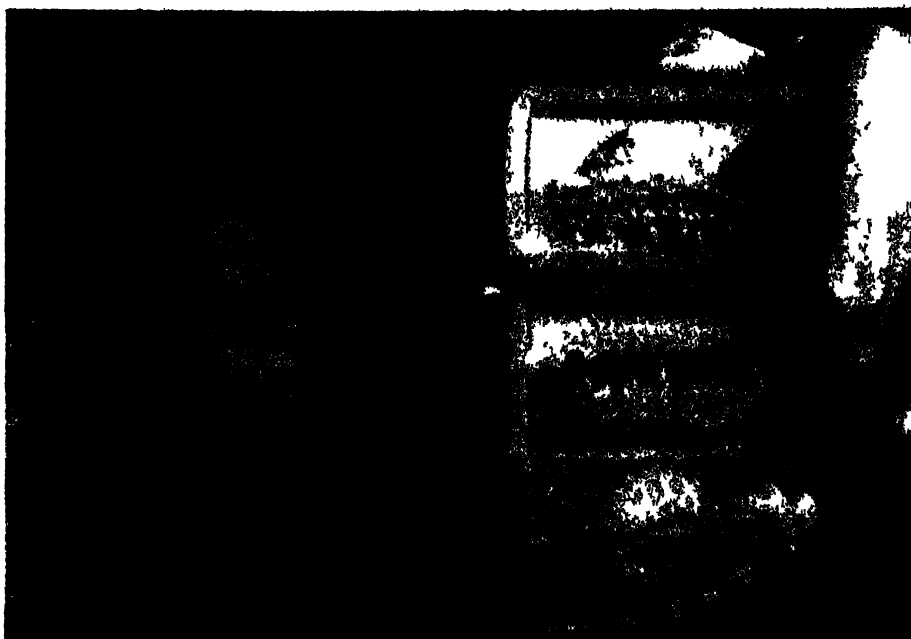
Flutist Hariprasad Chaurasia, theatre personality Satyadev Dube, dance exponent K P Kitappa and visual arts exponent Francis Newton Souza, are the recipients

Kishore Kumar Award, 1999

Film director Gulzar is the recipient. The award is given by the Madhya Pradesh government

Nobel Prizes, 1999

Peace: Medicines Sans Frontieres (Doctors without borders). It was founded



Bob Masek, a fossil preparator at the Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois, USA, shows a pair of dinosaur jaw bones believed to be the oldest fossils ever discovered. A team of scientists working in Madagascar unearthed a number of bones estimated to be about 230 million years old

in Paris in 1971 with the goal of providing medical aid to people wherever needed, whether in a war zone or a country hit by natural disaster. It has provided medical assistance in war-torn Vietnam, Afghanistan and Rwanda

Physics: Dutch physicists Gerardus T Hooft and Martinus Veltman, for their

work on the quantum structure of electroweak interactions

Chemistry: Ahmed Zewail of Egypt, for finding a technique to see how atoms move during a chemical reaction

Economics: Robert Mundell of the US, for his prophetic theory on common currencies which formed the basis of Europe's single currency, the Euro

Medicine: Guenter Blobel, German cell and molecular biologist, for his work establishing signal mechanisms by which vital proteins move about

Dada Sahab Phalke Award, 1999

Veteran film-maker Baldev Raj Chopra is the recipient. He had made the highly popular television serial on *Mahabharata*, as well as films like *Naya Daur*, *Kanoon*, *Waqt*, *Nikaah* and *The Burning Train*

BOOKS

Bowled by Dice

Written by Sunil Vard, this novel is about the winning methods of cricket world beaters

Galileo Mission



Galileo was launched in 1989 and arrived at Jupiter on December 7, 1995. Till 1997 it orbited the giant planet and its moons and returned a steady stream of images and scientific data. Then it began its two years' extended mission called the **Galileo Europa Mission**. During this mission Galileo flew by *Europa* eight times, *Callisto* four times and finally *Io* two times

On October 11, 1999, **Galileo** successfully completed its historic, closest-ever encounter with *Io*

The first set of data was returned by the Fields and Particles Instruments and consisted of information of the environment (plasma, dust and electric and magnetic fields) surrounding *Io*, including electromagnetic waves and radio signals. This data will assist scientists, have better understanding of particle dynamics near *Io*, and thermal and non-thermal plasma interaction in the region.

Disgrace

The novel is written by J.M. Coetzee, the winner of 1999 Booker Prize. The story is about a 52-year old professor in Cape Town who seeks refuge at his daughter's farm after an affair with a 20-year old student. He refuses to express regret and endures the "disgrace" of the title.

Fasting, Feasting

The novel by Anita Desai which was nominated for the Booker Prize.

Kiss of God

The collected thoughts of Marshall Ball, who is 13 years old. The book has sold 80,000 copies and is on best-seller lists. Marshall was born with a genetic disease. He cannot speak and cannot perform any motor function without assistance.

CONSTITUTION

84th Amendment Bill

The Lok Sabha unanimously passed the Constitution (84th Amendment) Bill extending reservation of seats in Parliament and State Assemblies for SCs and STs by another 10 years, beyond 2000.

According to the statement of objects and reasons of the amendment Bill, although the people belonging to these communities have made considerable progress during the last 50 years, the reasons which weighed with the Constituent Assembly in providing the provisions regarding reservation of seats for them and nomination of the Anglo-Indians in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies have not ceased to exist.

DEFENCE

Russia to lease bombers to India

Russia is to lease its Tu-22M3 long-range bombers to India to enhance the IAF's strike capability, as also sell an Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACs) aircraft.

The swing-wing supersonic bombers, inducted in the Soviet Air Force in 1977, have an effective strike range of 2,200 kms and can carry up to 24 tonnes of bombs and missiles, including 'smart' weapons.

India will be the only country, besides former Soviet Union constituent, Ukraine, to receive these bombers.

India is also going to buy one A-50 AWACs aircraft from Russia.

Under the long-term military-technical cooperation programme, Russia is assisting India in developing an advanced integrated air defence system capable of simultaneously engaging and destroying multiple aerial targets.

EDUCATION

Net Education to revolutionize learning

Interactive learning plans to simplify the learning process in schools and reduce the burden considerably for the teachers as well as students.

"Schoolnet India Limited", has set up pilot projects at Bangalore and Mumbai to bring in "net-worked learning" process to replace the traditional method of formatted and mechanical teaching.

The learning process making would become interesting and easier for students. The company is also planning to introduce chat learning by the year 2000 A.D.

Under the programme, the curricula has been incorporated with multimedia contents like pictures, graphics and other attractive visuals. The website "schoolnet" would provide all the information required by the teacher to take up the subject in the class.

ENVIRONMENT

Plans to conserve degraded forests

The National Forest Programme—India (NFP) has been drawn up by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) to conserve the degraded forests.

The scheme involves assisting the States to set up State forest protection forces as well as to assist the Joint Forest Management (JFM) cell and involve people in the eco-generation activities. The Centre has also stressed the need to reduce incidents of forest fires and increase the forest base in India.

India is one of the 12 mega biodiversity countries in the world having a large variety of flora and fauna, which is around seven per cent of the world's total biodiversity.

According to 1997 FSI report, the forest area now in the country is 79.34 MHA, which is around 24.13 per cent of

the total geographical area.

PERSONS

Blobel, Guenther

German biologist who is the winner of the Nobel Prize for medicine, 1999. Blobel now works in the Rockefeller University in New York.

Chopra, B.R.

Born in Ludhiana in 1914, Chopra — winner of the Dadasaheb Phalke award, 1999—was a journalist who stepped into cinema in 1947 when he migrated to Mumbai. His very first venture, *Afsana*, was a silver jubilee hit. He established BR Films in 1955 which came to be associated with socially relevant films. His best known films are *Gumraah*, *Waqt*, *Naya Daur*, *Nikaah* and *Insaaf Ka Tarazu*.

Coetzee, J.M.

South African writer J.M. Coetzee became the first person ever to win Britain's Booker Prize twice. He is a professor at University of Cape Town and is well-placed to write about the shifting power equations in post-apartheid South Africa. His book is an allegory and a novel of "harsh documentary realism."

Heeft, Gerardus T.

The Dutch physicist who shares the Nobel Prize for Physics, 1999.

Mundell, Robert

Winner of 1999 Nobel Prize for Economics, Mundell is a professor at the Columbia University in New York. He was the first to question fixed exchange rates, the inactivity of capital and the need for national currencies.

Morita, Akio

Co-founder of Sony Corp, Morita died in Tokyo at the age of 78. He was responsible for some of Sony's most powerful innovations. First called Tokyo Tsushin Denki, the company was renamed Sony (from the Latin word for sound, *Sonus*) in 1958. Sony introduced a host of successful products, including transistors, stereo and the trinitron system.

Musharraf, Pervez

Pakistan's military chief who ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a coup,

is a veteran of two wars against India. Born in New Delhi in 1943, he underwent his early education in Karachi. He joined Pakistan's army in 1964.

Veltman, Martinus

The Dutch physicist who shares the Nobel Prize for Physics, 1999

Zewail, Ahmed

The Egyptian scientist who is the winner of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry 1999

PLACES

Orissa

The State which saw widespread destruction due to a supercyclone that hit coastal areas on October 29, 1999.

Paradip

Paradip port town in Orissa was the worst affected town during the super cyclone that hit Orissa on October 29, 1999. The town has a population of about one lakh.

The port is used mainly for iron ore exports and imports of fertilizer and fertilizer inputs such as rock phosphates. Some major industries located in Paradip include Paradip Phosphates and Oswal Agro Fertilizers.

Located in Mahanadi basin, Paradip is also a major fishing harbour.

PROJECTS

Project for storm warning in Indian Ocean

A US \$ 45 million project to address the problem of storm surges in the northern Indian Ocean is being finalised.

The project on 'Storm Surge Disaster Reduction in Northern Indian Ocean' got its first major approval in 1998, under the aegis of the Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO.

The project will result in improvement of the meteorological, marine and hydrological observing systems, and telemetry and data processing systems to save life and property.

The project has suggested suitable cyclone and storm surge models (including inland inundation) with an

operational oceanographic and hydrological numerical storm surge prediction facility.

The aim is to be able to predict the time of landfall (when the storm hits the land) more accurately and reliably.

SPACE

Findings from the Mars Global Surveyor

Scientists studying high resolution images from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) Mars Global Surveyor spacecraft have found no evidence of shorelines that would have surrounded oceans.

The new findings have overturned previous hypothesis pointing to certain landscape features that apparently resembled ancient shorelines.

One argument that such a body of water once existed was suggested by features in images from the NASA Viking missions taken in the 1970s, which were interpreted by a number of researchers as remnants of ancient coastlines. The images from Mars Global Surveyor have a resolution five to 10 times better than those that Viking provided. Closer inspection has revealed that none of these features appear to have been formed by the action of water in a coastal environment.

MISCELLANY

National Science Olympiad

Students of classes VIII to XII can participate in the National Science Olympiad. Each participant will be awarded an All India Rank to enable them to know their competence at National level.

The Second National Science Olympiad will be conducted on 28th January 2000. Interested students should ask the Principal of their school/college to contact the Science Olympiad Foundation, G 13, 1st Floor, Green Park Extn., New Delhi-16. Tel: 6561586. E-mail: math2000@vsnl.com.

Web traffic to overtake telecom soon

Global data traffic will surpass voice transmissions via telephone lines by early 2000, according to market research firm, Giga Information Group.

By 2002, international voice traffic will represent less than 10 per cent of all international traffic over international telecommunications lines, or 160 billion minutes. Global data traffic, by contrast, will exceed an equivalent of 1.6 trillion minutes of traffic.

Data capacity has already outstripped voice capacity within the United States and over trans-Atlantic lines. By early 2000, data demand will overtake voice demand on trans-Pacific lines.

Growth of data capacity is expected to increase by at least 100 per cent a year over the next three years, and as much as 1,000 per cent after that.

In contrast, projections for international switched voice traffic call for worldwide growth of about 15 per cent worldwide.

How cyclones develop

Cyclones are low-pressure areas in the atmosphere in which winds rush inwards due to the imbalance in pressure. A tropical cyclone, as the name suggests, occurs over warm ocean waters in the tropical regions. These cyclones are called *hurricanes* if they form in the West Indies or the eastern Pacific Ocean, and *typhoons* if they form in the western Pacific. These storms are severe and may bring winds upto 290 kilometres an hour, terrific rains, violent thunder, and lightning. They measure 320 to 480 kilometres across.

A low atmospheric pressure at the centre and winds at high velocity spiralling in towards it are the two characteristics of all cyclones. In the northern hemisphere, the winds blow counter-clockwise toward the centre. In the southern hemisphere, they blow inward in a clockwise direction.

Some parts of the world have so many cyclones that their average atmospheric pressure is below that of the rest of the world. For example, in the Aleutian low in the North Pacific Ocean and the Icelandic low of the North Atlantic, the pressure is low most of the winter. Such regions may be called semi-permanent low-pressure centres or centres of action.

Appointments Etc

APPOINTED, ELECTED ETC

Abdurrahman Wahid He has been elected as Indonesia's fourth President
Fernando de la Rúa He has been elected President of Argentina
G.M.C. Balayogi He has been elected Speaker of the Lok Sabha
PM Sayeed He has been elected Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha
Mukut Mithu He has been sworn in as Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh
Pawan Kumar Chamling He has been sworn in as Chief Minister of Sikkim
S M Krishna He has been sworn in as

Chief Minister of Karnataka

Vilas Rao Deshmukh He has been sworn in as Chief Minister of Maharashtra
Lalit Mansingh He has been appointed Foreign Secretary of India
Ravindra Verma He has been appointed Chairman of the second National Commission on Labour

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Emeka Anyaoku Chief of Commonwealth

DIED

Julius Nyrere Former President of Tanzania

Congress pressure to upgrade its ties with India to a "strategic relationship".
 29—The entire coastal Orissa is devastated by a super cyclone

31—A Cairo-bound Egyptair Boeing 767 crashes shortly after take-off from New York, killing all 200 people on board

NOVEMBER

5—Pope John Paul II arrives in New Delhi

Lata Mangeshkar: The singer now has a perfume named after her: an international perfume "Lata eau de parfum" was launched in Mumbai on her 70th birthday

Jesse Martin: The 18-year-old Australian adventurer, who has become the youngest person to sail around the globe unassisted and non-stop

EVENTS

OCTOBER

10—The 13th Lok Sabha is constituted
 12—The government of Nawaz Sharif is dismissed in Pakistan after a military coup
 13—Atal Behari Vajpayee is sworn in as

Prime Minister for a third term
 25—Israel declares open a "safe passage" for Palestinians between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank
 28—The US government formally eases some sanctions against India amid

UNION COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

PRIME MINISTER - ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE

CABINET MINISTERS

Name	Portfolio
L K Advani	Home
George Fernandes	Defence
Yashwant Sinha	Finance
Jaswant Singh	External Affairs
Mamta Banerjee	Railways
Ram Vilas Paswan	Communications
Sharad Yadav	Civil Aviation
Murasoli Maran	Commerce and Industry
Manohar Joshi	Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises
Ram Naik	Petroleum and Natural Gas
Satya Narayan Jaitiya	Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation
Pramod Mahajan	Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources
Nitish Kumar	Surface Transport
Anant Kumar	Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs
Sunderlal Patwa	Rural Development
Jai Oram	Tribal Affairs
Suresh Prabhu	Chemicals and Fertilisers
Shanta Kumar	Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution
TR Baalu	Environment and Forests
Jagmohan	Urban Development
Ram Jethmalani	Law, Justice and Company Affairs
PR Kumaramangalam	Power
Murli Manohar Joshi	HRD, Science and Technology
Kashiram Rana	Textiles
Naveen Patnaik	Mines and Minerals

MINISTERS OF STATE (Independent charge)

Maneka Gandhi	Social Justice and Empowerment
Uma Bharti	Tourism
Arun Jaitley	Information and Broadcasting
M Kannappan	Non-conventional Energy Sources
Dilip Ray	Steel
Vasundhara Raje	Small Scale Industries, Agro and Rural Industries
NT Shanmugham	Health and Family Welfare

MINISTERS OF STATE

Name	Portfolio
Ramesh Bais	Chemicals and Fertilisers
Bijoya Chakravarty	Water Resources
Ram Chouhan	Parliamentary Affairs
Bandaru Dattatreya	Urban Development
Santosh Gangwar	Science and Technology
J Gaikwad Patil	Human Resources Development
Prof Chaman Lal Gupta	Civil Aviation
S Shahnawaz Hussain	Food Processing
Dr K V Ramjibhai	Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
Faggan Singh Kulaste	Parliamentary Affairs
V Dhananjay Kumar	Finance
Bangaru Lakshman	Planning and Programme Implementation
Sumitra Mahajan	Human Resources Development
Subhash Mahana	Rural Development
Babu Lal Marandi	Environment and Forests
Jayawanti Mehta	Power
Muni Lall	Labour and Employment
Omer Abdullah	Commerce and Industry
Ajit Panja	External Affairs
Harin Pathak	Defence
Debendra Pradhan	Surface Transport
E Ponnuswamy	Petroleum
A Raja	Rural Development
O Rajagopal	Law, Justice and Company Affairs
Dr Ramani	Commerce and Industry
G N Ramachandran	Textiles
C Vidyasagar Rao	Home
SBPBK Satyanarayan Rao	Agriculture
Bachli Singh Rawat	Defence
Tapan Sikdar	Communications
Dipvijay Singh	Railways
Th Chaoaba Singh	Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports
V. Sreenivasarao	Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution
I O. Swamy	Home
Dr Fikha Verma	Mines and Minerals
Baleshwar Vikhe Patil	Finance
H. Narayan Yadav	Agriculture

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Sachdeva New P.T. College

New Delhi

With reference to the undersigned's performance in JNU MCA 99
expected - 10

I take this opportunity to thank your institution for providing me excellent coaching for MCA 99. I express my deepest gratitude to all experienced and dedicated tutors whose constant efforts and encouragement inspired me to deliver my best.

I am glad to inform you that I have got Rank 1 in JNU MCA 99. Besides this I have qualified REE MCA (Rank 18), UP MCA (Rank 47), P.M.C.A. (Rank 24) and U.M.C.A. (Rank 24) and MP MCA (Rank 177).

I would accept my heartiest thanks for your valuable contribution in my success.

I wish similar success to all aspirants.

Thanking you

Yours Sincerely

Kavita Choudhary

JNU Reg No 26690



Kavita Choudhary
JNU-MCA Entrance
Examination '99

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